

EBONY

Katherine Jackson Tells All
Everything You Always Wanted
To Know About Michael, Janet
And LaToya, From the Woman Who
Knows Them Best—Their Mother



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INCORPORATING BLACK WORLD MAGAZINE

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COVER: The Jacksons have lived in the glare of a blinding spotlight for nearly two decades. During that time, the personal and professional lives of Michael, Janet and LaToya have prompted the most questions, and in her revealing memoir, Katherine Jackson, mother of the famous clan, answers many of those questions. In her own words, she tells what her famous children are really like. For this intimate family portrait, turn to page 60. Cover photographs by Vandell Cobb, James Mitchell and N. Berman/SIPA.

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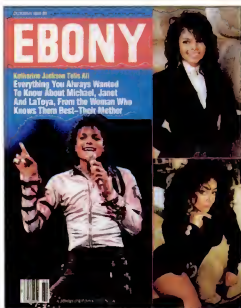
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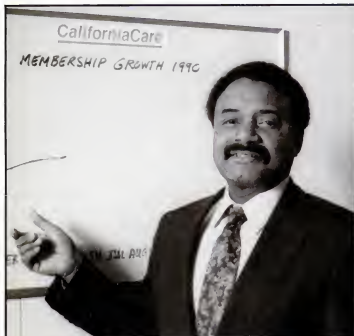


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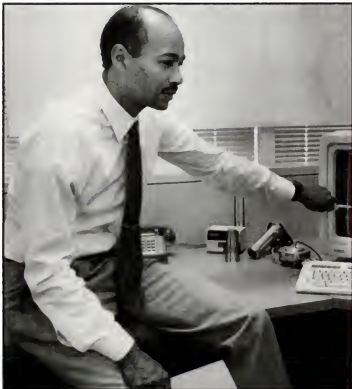
Bernard H. Crowley is the first Black vice president and executive director for CaliforniaCare, a Blue Cross of California HMO in Los Angeles. Crowley provides direction for a statewide model health plan and a mental health and substance abuse product. Born in Ruleville, Miss., he earned a bachelor's in history at Southern Illinois University and a master's in health organization and administration at the University of Cincinnati. He and his wife, La Barbara, have two children, Kevin, 25, and Justin, 14.



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Thomas C. Cannon Jr. is a department manager of design engineering at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. He manages engineers and drafting personnel who create electrical and mechanical designs for defense and energy systems and research operations. Born in Houston, he earned a bachelor's, master's and a Ph.D. degree at Purdue University and a master's degree at Stanford University. He and his wife, Joyce, have four children, twins Tom and Tony, 17, Chris, 14, and Marc, 8.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE NEW GENERATION

EBONY, your August special issue, "The New Generation Of The '90s" has inspired me to write you. I was very impressed by the articles, especially the remarks made by the Rev. Jesse Jackson. What he said about knowing one's history could possibly be the main factor that is keeping our Black youth of today from being all they can be. I truly believe that you cannot know where you are going unless you know where you have been.

For the past several years I have been incarcerated in the Ohio penal system. During that time I have read more books about our people than I believe I ever would have if I had never come to prison. Even before then I always knew that we are a special people. Through your articles this perception has become even stronger. This is what the young people need to also realize. Many Black people—young and old—have such low self-esteem because they do not fully understand how powerful a people we really are. White archeologists and scholars alike have stated that they owe their civilizations to the Black man, but this fact is not taught in the schools.

Thank you, EBONY, for such articles.
DAVID O. BREWER SR.
Cleveland, Ohio

I would like to thank you for your wonderful special issue, "The New Generation Of The '90s." Your issue came at a most important time in my life—time of change. Your articles inspired me and made me more aware of the changes I was going through. Your articles, "Sex And Young Blacks" and "The Widening Gap Between Women Who Are Making It And Men Who Aren't," really hit home. At a time when I am personally trying to make a change for my daughter and me, your articles made me think about what my values are, what my goals are, and what my sexual values are. I can honestly say that this issue has made me stop and think and re-think.

All I really want to say is thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

SERENA HORACE
Stockton, Calif.

Thank you, EBONY! I am so proud to be an African-American woman. I am very excited to receive my magazine in the mail and read your articles, but this time you really outdid yourselves with the August 1990 issue. I was so proud to read about all of the young Black men and women, college graduates and professionals who have made outstanding achievements.

I am 23 years old, divorced and have one child. I will be starting my freshman year in college this year, working toward a degree in computer science. At one point in my life, I thought all was too late for me, but that was simply nonsense. Reading EBONY has encouraged me to do my very best toward accomplishing my goals.

Keep up the good work, and keep inspiring your readers with good information on the importance of education.

VALERIE TAYLOR
Westmont, Ill.

Thank you, thank you, for your August 1990 special issue, "The New Generation Of The '90s." I especially enjoyed your article on the young men and women who show tenacity and determination in the pursuit of academic excellence. As a 16-year-old high school senior, it really encourages me to read about future leaders who are instilling pride in us "up and comers." I have read this issue three times. I simply cannot put it down. I now have renewed faith in the theory that I am, can be, and will be somebody. This belief is further sparked by the fact that my brothers and sisters are out there making their dreams sweet reality. Nothing is impossible, in spite of seemingly insurmountable odds. People like Pamela McCauley prove this to be true 10 times over.

Again, EBONY, I say thank you, and may God bless you. Please keep up the good work.

TRINA SUIVERS
Panama City, Fla.

"The New Generation Of The '90s" issue arrived in the mail three days after my son's 12th birthday. That is remarkably coincidental because in 1978 the "New Generation" issue arrived in the mail on the same day that he was born. I kept that issue and have compared many of its articles to those in the current issue.

Both issues are accurate chronicles of the Black—no, make that African-American—experience. Each presents insightful views on such topics as our young peoples' attitudes on sex, achievements in higher education, and abilities to set musical and cultural trends.

A lead article in the 1978 issue stated that "the son's generation is always a bit different from the father's." However, what the 12-year span between the two generation issues really shows is that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Thanks, again, EBONY, for another wonderful chronicle of the young African-American generation.

GEORGE DRUMMING JR.
Tallahassee, Fla.

The August 1990 special issue of EBONY was filled with some great achievements by young African-Americans. It was great to see your magazine highlight the positive things that people are doing in our community. It seems the media thrives on exaggerating the negative, while seldom (if ever) exposing us to the positive. I hope other publications follow in EBONY's footsteps and begin reporting on the success and accomplishments of our emerging generation.

KIM GABRIEL
Arlington, Va.

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Thanks for your article, "In Pursuit Of Excellence" (August 1990). This particular article really made my day. I'm a college student, majoring in psychology. My ambition is to one day become a clinical psychologist. I feel great joy when I see my sisters and brothers doing such a great job academically. These students are the true meaning of what Black excellence is. At times the pursuit of excellence can be very hard. However, when I see articles like this one, I only keep striving more.

I'm very happy to see that two of the featured scholars are from North Carolina. My prayers

EBONY

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LETTERS

Continued

and wishes are that they continue to strive for Black excellence.

MACK DIXON JR.

Kinston, N.C.

50 LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

While I truly enjoyed your "The New Generation Of The '90s" issue, this correspondence comes to express some concern about the article, "50 Leaders Of The Future." I did note that disclaimer ("This list is by no means all inclusive, for there are hundreds of young people who are at the vanguard of Black America's struggle for equality...") It is a point well taken, but I still felt compelled to ask EBONY to include more educators in future lists.

While the field of law was represented by eight attorneys, one law professor, and one law student, higher education was represented by only one well-deserving coach and two equally deserving professors. Elementary and secondary educators were not represented at all! I am aware that some fields have traditionally been more difficult for minorities to enter than others. We all seek to arm our youth with the knowledge that these walls can be penetrated and they have more choices than generations before them. I am also sure that EBONY is aware that there is a shortage of Black educators. There is a crisis in education today that I believe can begin to be mended by an influx of Black, particularly Black male, educators. We need those immediate positive role models.

As I was being reared, EBONY was required reading in my home. I am sure that that phenom-

enon is recreated throughout minority households across the country. Articles in EBONY boosted my self-esteem and helped me set my goals. I was influenced and inspired by the accomplishments and challenges that our people encountered.

I wonder what message it sends to young people when they do not see educators represented among the ranks of young leaders. Someone had to teach those young attorneys, civic leaders, technical minds and financial wizards when they were in grade school and high school.

Continue in your fine tradition with articles such as "Superwomen of Public Education (June 1983)," "Mary Futrell-President of the National Education Association (October 1983)," and others. Let's give more recognition to the unsung heroes and inform our young people that there are a myriad of positions available to them in education—superintendent, central office staff, curriculum and instruction specialist, personnel and finance directors, special education, visual therapist, occupational therapists, audiologists, diagnosticians, nutritional advisors, counselors, deans of instruction, principals, coaches, and TEACHERS!

LAURA PRICE HARRISON

Principal

Dalworth Elementary School

Grand Prairie, Texas

I found your special issue, "The New Generation Of The '90s," interesting but not thorough. Although it may be impractical to list everyone as a possible future leader, it would have been nice to see at least one from the military. There are many young and ambitious captains and sergeants in the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines who already are sound leaders. Ironically, in the

middle of your selection of the "50 Leaders Of The Future" there is an Air Force advertisement with Gen. John H. Voorhees, which talks about aiming high. Believe me, neither Gen. Voorhees, Gen. Colin Powell, nor any of the many colonels and generals we have started out at their present rank. They worked their way to the top and are now recognized leaders.

M. E. ROYSTER

Ft. Stewart, Ga.

WHAT MAKES THEM TICK?

I'm 16 years old and responding to the article, "What Makes The New Generation Tick?" (August 1990). I feel that young Black teenagers today worry more about how to make fast money than spending years in college and earning a degree. They appear to be more concerned about listening to pop music than learning about the Black culture and experiences.

The Black race is not as strong as it has been in past years, especially in the '60s when Blacks had to stick together because of rising prejudice and discrimination.

Black adult parents should set examples and serve as positive role models for their children, teaching them to respect themselves and others. Parents should also help their children realize what changes are occurring and what children can do to overcome negative barriers and stereotypes. Well-functioning parents should also be sharing their Black experiences with their children.

Employed middle class African-Americans who are successful should reach back and help other young Blacks develop a positive self-image and raise their level of consciousness so they, too, can work to expand employment and educational opportunities to all Black people.

Blacks must not forget the struggles of those great patriots who gave their lives for our freedom as we know it in the '90s.

Thank you, EBONY, for the well-written and well-presented article.

DANIEL KYLES

Eau Claire, Mich.

GOD AND THE RAP GENERATION

Thank you for the article, "God And The Rap Generation" (August 1990). I found it very interesting because I have joined the ranks of Black youths who have accepted the Lord as their personal savior. I constantly thank God for the friends who encouraged me to attend a drop-in for the Clemson University Gospel Choir, and I am very proud to say that nearly all of our 80-plus members have dedicated their lives to serving God.

I hope that other young Blacks will read the article and feel encouraged to join us in our crusade. Thank you, EBONY, and may God richly bless you.

TONYA MICHELLE BERRY

Marion, S.C.

MOST EXPLOSIVE PROBLEM

I would like to discuss the article, "What Can We Do About The Most Explosive Problem In Black America?" (August 1990). I am a 29-year-old Black male graduate of the University of Texas. At the time I graduated, the University of Texas was among the top 10 business colleges in the U.S. I have since started a successful business here in Houston. With the help of a Black-owned law firm, two Black CPAs as well as a Black financial consultant, I represent professional athletes. During the past few years, I have come in contact with several Black men who are virtually at wits end. I am speaking of and for at

LETTERS Continued

least 15 successful Black men—doctors, lawyers, engineers and the like. Our problem: no available Black women within our immediate circles. I have been chastised by my mother and sisters for dating White women. It is not my desire to date only White women, but I can't locate this hiding place for those successful Black women.

Maybe our problem is not a lack of Black women on our level but on not knowing where these women are. This could also be the problem that Black women face. My Jewish friends have a singles club where they meet other singles. We don't have such a place.

I am not in a position to challenge the findings of the article, however, I would say that in Houston, Black women who want more out of life and are striving to achieve would have no problem finding a Black man with those same goals.

CHARLES E. JOHNSON

Houston, Texas

After reading your article, "What Can We Do About The Most Explosive Problem In Black America: The Widening Gap Between Women Who Are Making It And Men Who Aren't," I was quite saddened by what looks like the extinction of Black men. I thought your article was very direct in bringing some harsh realities to light, and focusing on the importance of how the Black man is needed for the survival of our people.

I look forward to reading more of your fantastic articles.

DAWN LEADER

Brooklyn, N.Y.

MAKING IT

I am writing to compliment you on your article, "Making It" (August 1990). It shows being Black does not mean you have to be stereotyped as educationally and economically suppressed.

Even though African-Americans do suffer from high unemployment rates and low income, the 10 outstanding achievers mentioned in the article show that with determination and education we all can succeed.

PAM STUART

Simi Valley, Calif.

SAMMY DAVIS JR.

Thanks to the staff of EBONY for devoting much of the July 1990 issue to Sammy Davis Jr. The article, "The Legacy Of The World's Greatest Entertainer," along with all the pictures, had to be the largest story ever done on one person in any of your issues. And I can't think of anyone who deserves it more. Sammy Davis will live on, not only through his great works, but in the accomplishments of those who have passed through the doors he opened.

CAROL A. DRINKS

Atlanta, Ga.

Thanks for the tribute to Sammy Davis Jr. Lerone Bennett Jr.'s article was so personal, so warm, and so well-written that I felt as though I was there and participated in Sammy's memorial service. Moneta Sleet Jr.'s photographs added beauty, color and light to the story.

One more thing. I thought that Publisher John H. Johnson's words of condolence to Altvise Davis (Backstage) were touching. He said what I wanted to say; his words were my words.

Thank you for your outstanding coverage. I will keep this issue always. As all of us say good-

bye to this shining star, I truly feel that I am a part of the EBONY family.

MICHELLE HAMPTON

Cincinnati, Ohio

I wish to thank EBONY and Jet for the articles on a man whom we all loved—Sammy Davis Jr. I've been a subscriber to EBONY and Jet for quite some time, but the July 1990 issue of EBONY and the June 4, 1990, issue of Jet will always be my favorites. These two issues will NEVER be put away, for they reveal to us a man who, when faced with adversity, never gave up. Until the end, Sammy was a fighter. We all can use him as an example of hope, peace and friendship, and more importantly, as an example of all God's people to love one another!

CHARLES LAWAYNE JONES

Ft. Leavenworth, Texas

I would like to thank you so much for your article about Sammy Davis Jr. He was the kind of man I admire most—enjoying life, helping people and proud of his roots. The words on the front of his house are my words, because I have peace and love for every human being, and particularly for Black people. Here, in my little country, I do my best for them, wherever they come from. And in my everyday life, at my work, I do my best to make my colleagues know a little more about the Black community. I cannot feel responsible for what happened in slavery time, but I am responsible for what is going on now, because I'm a citizen of this world.

MONIQUE GAIER

Brussels, Belgium

If there is anything we have learned from Sammy Davis Jr., it is this: Success is not measured in Black and White. It is judged through a

job terribly done or well done. In Sammy's case, it was a job extremely well done. Not only that, he smashed the color "iron curtain," and brought glamor to the entertainment world. He will be remembered long after the tears are gone.

IGONIKON S. JACK

Baton Rouge, La.

My congratulations to your entire staff on the July issue featuring Sammy Davis Jr. It gave me such a warm feeling reading about his life in your magazine. I felt a sense of closeness to his family after reading this issue.

I was so glad that you basically dedicated this issue to Mr. Sammy Davis Jr. because it sends out a message of unity for your EBONY subscribers as well as Black people as a whole. I will cherish and keep this particular issue in remembrance of Sammy Davis Jr.

Please continue to show your excellence.

DIANA T. ROACH

Memphis, Tenn.

Thank you for the very fitting tribute to the life of veteran superstar/entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Davis in December 1979 at the Second Annual EBONY Black Achievement Awards, where I was the recipient of a scholarship award presented to me by Miller Brewing Co. and the United Negro College Fund. (EBONY, Feb. 1980). That same night, Mr. Davis was presented the first EBONY Lifetime Achievement Award by Mr. John H. Johnson, publisher of EBONY.

Backstage, Mr. Davis congratulated me upon my achievement in high school and encouraged me to complete my education and to never give up my hopes and dreams. What I remember

Continued on Next Page

TAKE TINY BITES



LETTERS Continued

most about that brief conversation was not Mr. Davis' expression of his tremendous success in the entertainment industry but his seeming regret of his lack of formal education, as he revealed to me that he was a self-taught man. Later that night, he performed "Mr. Bojangles" and, as always, left the audience craving for more. That night, Sammy Davis Jr. touched my life tremendously. The world has indeed lost a great man.

CONCHIETTA K. WHITE

New Orleans, La.

Thank you for your heartwarming tribute to Sammy (Mr. Bojangles) Davis Jr. He definitely was the consummate entertainer and show-biz legend. Not only could he do it all, but he was a true humanitarian. He lived life to the fullest, loved the people and fought for what he believed in. He will always have a place in my memory and heart.

With all due respect to Sammy, EBONY, I am very disappointed that you have not yet done an article on Sarah Vaughan. Her death is a tremendous loss to the jazz world and to all. I was very fortunate to attend her memorial service in Los Angeles. I sat there and listened to the wonderful tributes by Quincy Jones, the tributes in song by Take 6 and others. She was truly admired, respected and loved. She was a very loving, giving and sensitive person. For over 45 years, she has given us joy and countless songs.

Like Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and Carmen McRae, Sarah was the queen of jazz and song. Like fine wine, Sarah got better with age. Sarah was indescribable! She never sang a song the same way twice; she sang sweet, she sang naughty; she would hit the highs; she would hit the lows; and she would sing operatic, silky and satiny. She had one of the finest instruments ever. She was one of the finest interpreters of song.

Like Sammy, Sarah will be remembered for all the joy, love and music that she brought to our lives. We must never forget them! They are a part of our history. Through books, music, film and television, we won't forget! I will truly miss them both.

SANDRA E. CAMERON

Long Beach, Calif.

While trying to fall back to sleep after receiving a 2 a.m. phone call, my mind reflected back to your tribute to Sammy Davis Jr.'s life I had read earlier that evening. It so touched me that I was moved, compelled even, to write (for the first time to any publication) and thank Mr. Lerone Bennett Jr. for his thoroughness and expertise. The tribute was a loving and memorable account of the man and his life. Mr. Bennett spoke with great passion and emotion of the relationship the EBONY family shared with Sammy. In the photographs that accompanied the article, you brilliantly captured the human spirit. I could feel the pain and anguish those present were going through (from Altovise's fight to be strong and maintain her composure to Gregory Hines' tears, to Tramaire's moving rendition of "What Shall I Do?") as well as the overwhelming outpouring of love that was also exhibited. When Jesse Jackson said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the Will Mastin Trio, featuring Sammy Davis Jr." (to "sustained applause," as the article stated), it was just beautiful. No other statement would have been more appropriate.

Being only 27 years old, I was not aware of the many milestones of Sammy's earlier life, but I had come to admire and appreciate his great contributions in the last five years. This article has

given me an even greater appreciation of him. It's as if one of my own family is gone. I, too, will miss this man I had never even met, but had come to expect to just be there, whether on stage or in the media.

Again, thank you, EBONY and Mr. Bennett, for a wonderful and moving reading experience. I will treasure this issue for many years to come.

KAREN D. MANNS

Edgewater, N.J.

I was deeply impressed by EBONY's extensive and thoughtful coverage of the life and activities of Sammy Davis Jr. In addition to television highlights of his profile, EBONY and JET magazines (June and July) did an excellent job highlighting the accomplishments of Sammy Davis Jr.

What is particularly striking to me is the number of pages devoted by EBONY and JET to honor this legendary entertainer. This unique support, appreciation and encouragement which your magazines have been providing to the African-American community is commendable.

While I did not know much about Sammy Davis Jr. before he passed away, his story provided remarkable insight into the diversity which characterized his life—a man who accomplished amazing feats in the entertainment industry with his incredible multiple talents.

I am appreciative of my subscriptions to EBONY and JET because, in addition to my classroom lectures and discussions concerning African-American issues, these magazines have been instrumental in my increased awareness of the significant changes occurring in the lives of Black Americans, especially in entertainment, education, sports, politics, etc.

Indeed, African-Americans should take great pride in the outstanding contributions of EBONY in creating an awareness of their achievements and propagating indelible images and impressions for them.

HERO EPHRAIM OKORO

Washington, D.C.

Don't cry, Altovise Davis; weep not, Cicely Tyson; cry no more, Gregory Hines. Please stop crying, American folks. I mourn with you. As I was reading your article on the legacy of the world's greatest entertainer, my whole heart was filled with sorrow.

Thank you, EBONY, for letting the whole world know more about this great hero, and thank you, EBONY, for letting us Blacks be recognized all over the world. Keep driving the freedom train, EBONY.

MARK ENEARU

Lagos, Nigeria, Africa

What a true friend Frank Sinatra was to Sammy Davis Jr. became obvious in your July issue. For an interracial friendship to have lasted over 50 years gives the phrase "best friends through thick and thin" a very special meaning. If only the world could follow such a great example.

GERRI A. PURCELL

Phillips Ranch, Calif.

SISTERS OF THE SPIRIT

Thank you for the warm, heart-felt article, "Sisters Of The Spirit—Networks Help Celebrities Deal With Fame and Pain" (July 1990). In an age where it seems that Black women should be drawn into themselves because of marital, religious, social and economic problems, we still have an empathy for one another. The strife that would persist because of envy has been conquered by a need for someone who cares, understands, and empathizes with us, namely we ourselves. I have several sister-friends; one in



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Norforms... The better way to stay fresh.

LETTERS Continued

particular, who tells me that I am so good for her when actually I see her as my mentor. I guess that's how it really works; we each need to draw from the other. Otherwise, there is a one-sidedness, and that friendship wouldn't last long anyway.

PHYLLIS M. NEWSON

Suitland, Md.

I had to write this letter in reference to the article, "Sisters Of The Spirit." I want to thank the EBONY staff for a fine article, which was aimed at Black sisterhood. The article's content was a very strong and positive message for all who read it. I'm a Black male with, as you refer to it, "brother-friends." I think it is very important for everyone to have someone they can relate to and seek their advice. This is a subject that society can understand when it comes to women, but society is not ready to accept it in reference to men. Black men can still be strong, and meet and maintain emotional stability. Please continue to send positive vibes.

ERROL DUVERNAV

Atlanta, Ga.

After reading your June 1990 article, "Sisters Of The Spirit," I reflected on how blessed I am to have several friends to share joys and sorrows. The richness of my friendships is attributed to sensitivity and bluntness; closeness and distance; truth (even when it hurts); common interests and values and differences in opinions and practices; seriousness and humor; uplifting and constructive criticism, all done consistently with support and love.

I know that in order to have and keep good friends you must first be a good friend.

CYNTHIA MARIE ISAAC

New Orleans, La.

I have never been touched by an article as much as I was by your article, "Sisters Of The Spirit." I am one of seven sisters, yet I never knew what true sisterly love meant until I found a special friendship in a "sister of the spirit." Thanks, EBONY, for telling the world there is a special bond between African-American women.

CHARLOTTE MILLER

McCool, Miss.

I want to commend Laura Randolph on the writing of the article, "Sisters Of The Spirit." The article was well-written and certainly captured the true meaning of sisterhood among Black women. I appreciated the opportunity to appear with women of such accomplishment and prominence as Ms. Constance Newman and Ms. Thelma Duggin.

The article was representative of the high standard of journalism to which readers of EBONY are accustomed.

JOYCE T. BERRY, Ph.D.

U.S. Commissioner of Aging

Washington, D.C.

More and more (Black) women are assuming professional roles and positions of added responsibility in the workplace. This is still a fairly novel societal trend. Our female role models are not always as prominent or even abundant as their male counterparts. Given that, it is important for women to realize that if we are to secure ourselves as visible and valuable contributors to whatever task (presence) of respect from all persons and if our presence in the marketplace (and EBONY • October 1990

homeplace) is to be accepted and taken seriously, then we must commit ourselves to sisterly support.

It is seldom that a woman will share her life, beyond a friendship level, with another woman. All too often, women shortchange themselves of the benefits of sister friendship. A sister-friend who can empathize from her prior experience and freely advise you, her sister, in a similar situation, as you do the same for her represents the engagement of an exchange that sets us free from the secrets and mysteries of life in the Black experience. Laura Randolph's article addresses a relationship between women that has depth, love and loyalty. And depending on one's definition of friendship, "sisters of the spirit" surpasses what friends engage in.

Randolph's article is a voice advocating special advice to all women: the time has come for us to network. Let's just do it.

DONNA M. FORD

Nepean, Ontario, Canada

MILLI VANILLI

Thank you for such an informative and insightful article on Milli Vanilli (July 1990). Despite the harsh criticisms they receive, in my opinion, they truly are talented. I must admit I did chuckle when I watched Sinbad impersonating one of the members when he appeared on the *Arsenio Hall Show* and when I saw Keenen and Damon Wayans on *In Living Color* taking their shot at the group. However, their clothes, dance and general style are eccentric and that's what makes them unique.

I wish people would get off this kick that when one musical group doesn't sound or look like what they're used to, they feel the need to criticize them. To Fab and Rob of Milli Vanilli, I wish you continued success, and I'm looking forward to your next album.

MARY ELIZABETH THOMAS

Pittsburg, Pa.

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LETTERS

Continued

ALFRE WOODARD

What a great article on Alfre Woodard, "A Triumph Of Talent" (July 1990) by Aldore Collier, who is a truly beautiful and talented actress. I don't dare miss any of Ms. Woodard's performances on TV or the theater stage. Hollywood or any place else could never keep such a brilliant woman from the success God has destined for her. I look forward to seeing more great performances from this fabulous actress.

MARLON J. LEWIS

New York, N.Y.

Thank you very much for the article on Alfre Woodard, my favorite actress. When I look at her, I see, me, my daughter, my family.

I feel so good and so proud watching her on the screen. I have seen all her movies and TV appearances. Talk about role models, she is a beautiful lady and an inspiration to all Black women.

RUBY RICHARDS

New York, N.Y.

WOMAN BASEBALL EXECUTIVE

Regarding Elaine C. Weddington and the Boston Red Sox (July 1990), I can rejoice when my people excel in America's mainstream. It was uplifting to read that Weddington had been elevated within the Boston Red Sox franchise. However, EBONY erred when referring to her "making history as the first woman and the second African-American named to an upper echelon post in major league baseball." Weddington is the second African-American woman named to such a position.

The San Francisco Examiner's Image (Feb. 18, 1990), refers to the Oakland A's Sharon Jones as "the highest-ranking Black woman in major league baseball." Jones has held two high positions within the A's organization.

The Boston Red Sox are to be commended for hiring an African-American to a high level position. Remember, it was the last major league team to integrate the playing field in 1959 when Elijah (Pumpsie) Green was hired to play.

We are proud of Elaine C. Weddington and her accomplishment. As one interested in our history and achievements, for the record, Jones and the A's should be acknowledged as a first in our struggle toward equal opportunity within major league baseball. Congratulations to the Boston Red Sox franchise.

JOHN E. COLLINS

Newbury Park, Calif.

Editor's note: Sharon Jones began her career with the Oakland A's in 1990 when she became executive assistant to the club's chief operating officer and president, and was responsible for hiring and directing the executive office. Currently, she is director of Outreach Activities for the A's. We applaud the achievements of all Black women who have held high-ranking positions in major league baseball, but the rise of Weddington to a key position in the Red Sox front office—a position in which she is involved in player contract negotiations and league rules interpretation—is particularly noteworthy.

BACHELORETTES

Thanks for showing us the beautiful women in your EBONY bachelorettes (July 1990). These ladies seem to have most of the virtue and morals

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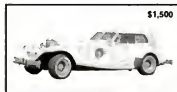
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LETTERS

Continued

any good Black man would be looking for. Unfortunately, it's extremely hard for the right people to find each other. I know I'm speaking from experience! I hope that each one would be blessed with that special guy. They all seem so deserving. Living in Washington, D.C., my favorite is Selenita Parson. I'll be looking for you around the Washington metro area. To all these beautiful ladies, stay just as you are!

JOHN LEWIS

Washington, D.C.

Two years ago, *EBONY*, published a letter I had written stating my desire to meet a beautiful, intelligent and artistic Black woman. When my letter did not receive any feedback as I had hoped, I thought that my views on relationships were unrealistic and that my fantasy female was just that—a fantasy.

I found myself glimpsing through the 1990 bachelorettes section, and whom should I come across but none other than the most beautiful, most intelligent, most conceptually talented, most ethnic vision of loveliness I could ever hope to see in a thousand lifetimes! Her radiant smile shined a new light in my heart and gave me living proof that my ideal Black woman does exist, and I would be proud to have her as a wife. As a commercial designer and political rap artist/writer, I feel that this goddess and I have a lot in common, and I would love to know where I could write her for giving me the strength to carry on my search for true love. Her name is Selenita Parson.

ANGELO MAURICE HARRIS

Memphis, Tenn.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *You may write Ms. Parson c/o EBONY Bachelors and Bachelorettes, 820 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605.*

WHITNEY HOUSTON

I must express to you the joy and relief on seeing the June 1990 cover story, "Whitney Houston's Father's Day Tribute." It's about time that Whitney is featured not only for her musical achievements but her positive image. Not only is she outstanding vocally, but she credits her support and success to her parents, and quite clearly is not afraid to display her affection. It was truly a touching article.

These are the type of positive Black role models that Black youths everywhere need in order to go in the proper direction. Several months ago, I read a "letter to the editor" from one Black fan who said that Whitney Houston has settled for "pop schlock." What type of statement is that?! I'm sorry, but this has to be said! Personally, Blacks have an annoying habit of downgrading other Black celebrities who have successfully made a name for themselves. Just because Whitney is capable of appealing to a White audience and sells more than 30 millions copies (more than Madonna's past three albums), she is looked down on as striving for the White sound. This is simply ridiculous! Come off it, those of you in Black America who feel this way! Why is it that Anita Baker isn't looked down on by her fans? If she had seven consecutive No. 1 singles, I grant you that her situation would be exactly as Whitney's is now. Let's stop looking at music by color! Since when does music have color? Music stirs the soul and therefore is not limited to any boundaries such as color or race.

Give Whitney's third album the Black encouragement that is needed! This young, Black,



Photo By: Barney Norman

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LETTERS Continued

beautiful bird of song is an inspiration for all Black youths today. Recognize her only for her outstanding musical talents, outstanding contributions to society and her admirable loving relationship with her mother and father.

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

C. SPARKS

I'm writing you from Yugoslavia to let you know that EBONY has been my favorite magazine ever since I first saw it in the American Center in my town.

And I'm writing you to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your article and cover picture on my favorite singer, Whitney Houston. Your great story really made my day because it's been quite some time since I last heard anything about her. She is a person of angelic beauty and wonderful voice. I respect, love and admire her very very much!

Whitney, there are millions all over the world who truly love you! Your music joins us together, inspiring and touching our hearts. Whitney, you are the greatest to me! Thank you for so many wonderful moments your music has brought me!

And thank you, EBONY, for never letting me down! You are the best!

NELLY TOMSIC

Ljubljana, Yugoslavia

NAMIBIA

You all have done it again. Hats off to Mr. Hans J. Massaquoi for that brilliant report on Namibia's independence celebration (June 1990).

To President Sam Nujoma, I would like to say, "Way to go, brother; way to go." It is clear today, as in times past, that Black nations with resources the White man deemed valuable got their freedom only by fighting for it. It was not given to them. I would hope that my brothers and sisters in South Africa sit up and take note.

Once again, EBONY, my sincere thanks and appreciation goes to you for the fine work you have done and are doing. You have done a most excellent job of keeping the Black community up to date on developments that are important to us. Thank you very much.

LAVERNE ALLEN

Brooklyn, N.Y.

MAKING MARRIAGE WORK

The article, "Making Marriage Work In The '90s" (June 1990), was extraordinary. I think African-American men and women should change their traditional duties every now and then. Note these changes: The husband should do some of the indoor chores, such as cooking, cleaning and watching the children (if they have any). The wife should do some of the outdoor chores, such as mowing the lawn, trimming the hedges and painting the house.

Role reversals will eliminate sexual stereotypes and produce happier couples. Why don't we try it?

Thanks, EBONY, for a timely article.

STEVEN HARRISON

Montgomery, Ala.

INTERRACIAL COUPLES

Thanks are due to you for your article, "Interracial Couples In The South" (June 1990). I am involved in an interracial relationship. Every time we go out we are faced with turning heads and staring eyes. It is very rare to see a Black

female with a White male in the area in which I live. I have been told by many that society is not ready to be faced with Black ladies and White gentlemen as a couple. I cannot wait for society to wake up and get prepared. I must live my life as I feel it is right for me and I strongly believe that everyone is equal. I pray that the people who look at interracial couples as unacceptable read your informative article and begin to realize that it is okay to love outside our color lines.

CANDY WATKINS

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

As one of your White subscribers, I was especially interested in your article, "Interracial Couples In The South," in your June issue. Of particular interest was the statement, "Some Blacks and Whites report marital status." Your article is what tipped me off as to what may be happening to me in my employment.

I have recently experienced some "mysterious" changes in my job after some people in the office discovered that I am currently involved with a Black man. My job as a word processing operator had always been a very busy job, but recently the workload started to decrease about half of what it formerly had been. I work in a branch office of a national company that has written rules against racial discrimination, so it's probably not possible that anyone could do anything directly against me. However, they could try to indirectly get rid of me by trying to eliminate my job.

I would be especially interested in knowing if any of your other readers have experienced this kind of situation and if so, how they have dealt with it. This would not have to be limited to persons involved in an interracial relationship or marriage; the same situation could happen in any company where someone may try to eliminate a Black person's job without it "appearing" to be racial discrimination.

NAME WITHHELD

Seattle, Wash.

With regard to your excellent article, "Interracial Couples In The South," one sentence leapt out from the page: "Despite these signs of acceptance, intolerance persists." Never have truer words been written.

I am a 24-year-old White Englishwoman married to a beautiful Afro-American man. We live in a small town in Georgia and since our marriage a year ago, we have experienced both positive and negative reactions from others around us.

My husband's family, relatives and friends have welcomed me in their hearts and homes from the very beginning. In the largely Black community where we live, there is curiosity but still definite acceptance. However, once we step outside the protective family circle or community, the attitudes of people of my own race are both distressing and soul destroying. There are screams of abuse, stares of hatred and disgust, and rejection at every turn.

Our solution? To hold hands tighter, stand together closer, and lift our heads higher.

We have a message for those uninformed individuals who choose to display their ignorance. Wake up and join the real world! Interracial couples are here, and here to stay.

LORRINE CHALLEN-JOINSON

Athens, Ga.

I read, and enjoyed, your article, "Interracial Couples In The South." I'm a Black lady and I'm married to a White man. We also live in the South. It's not easy, so I really feel for all those couples.

My family has accepted our marriage real well, but it took a while. We are still looked upon

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LETTERS Continued

and sneered at a lot by Whites and Blacks when we go out in public.

I'm from the South and my husband is from out West. I grew up around Whites, and I've never had any problems with the color of anyone's skin. Treat me right and I'll treat you right.

My husband and I both are Christians and we try to overlook people and their stupidity even though it's very hard at times. Our son is almost two years old and we try to teach him that the color of a person's skin doesn't matter. It's what's in the heart (that matters). When my husband and I stayed out West we got glares, but not as many as we do here in Alabama.

In my opinion, the people here will always be prejudiced because some of the older generations are instilling their bias into their children and grandchildren.

So when those White ladies turn up their noses at me, I hold my head high because I love my husband and family probably more than they love theirs.

GLINDA EMERY

Moulton, Ala.

BACHELORS

I enjoyed the bachelor feature (June 1990). I have, however, one question regarding these men: "Why on earth are they bachelors?" I am a 21-year-old Black female college graduate who has found it difficult to come across attractive, intelligent and professional Black men. I am impressed with the number of such men the EBONY staff discovered!

I'm particularly impressed with one of your bachelors, Romney M. Phillips of Kenner, La. I am now considering my first visit to Louisiana. I really don't know how the situation is elsewhere, but here in Los Angeles, the outlook on eligible Black males is bleak.

Thank you, EBONY, for instilling the hope in Black women that there are "good" Black men out there. And to Mr. Phillips and company, I would like to commend you on your achievements and inform you that you are indeed rare.

A. CANDICE BROWN

Inglewood, Calif.

RAP REVOLUTION

I am writing to express my appreciation for the article, "The Real Story Behind The Rap Revolution" (June 1990). I am so pleased that someone finally decided to set the record straight about rap. I was pleased to see that the article had a positive approach toward rappers and rap groups. Usually when the media profiles rap it is from a negative point of view. The controversy concerning the rap group 2 Live Crew is an excellent example. The media made it seem as if they were common criminals. Why can't people understand that rap is just another segment of the ongoing evolution in music?

The article was enlightening, and I think that more people should be more open-minded when it comes to rap music because it is here to stay!

Thanks, EBONY, for enlightening me.

JACQUELINE DOUGLAS

Montgomery, Ala.

I really appreciated the open-mindedness associated with the article, "The Real Story Behind The Rap Revolution." I have seen many rap critics and rappers argue for the past year now. What the critics don't realize is that when they complain or try to ban certain rap songs, it causes

Continued on Page 142

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HOUSE CALL

Expert Advice on Health and Fitness

FLU SEASON COMING

I know the flu season is approaching and would like tips on how to avoid the virus. I have three school-aged children and when they come down with it, my husband and I have to take time off work, and eventually we get sick, too. A.M. Birmingham, Ala.

You may try practicing some preventive measures because once you get the flu, it is virtually impossible to keep going. Health officials estimate that influenza costs the nation \$1 billion annually in missed work and productivity. Preschool and school-aged children are most likely to get and spread the flu. This is due in part to their weak natural defenses and because they don't always practice good hygiene. You can impress upon your youngsters the need to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly—not just before eating and entering the kitchen, but as soon as they come in from school or play. Explain to them how germs and viruses are spread, and make sure they don't visit friends with siblings who are down with colds or the flu. Keeping a child who has caught the “bug” in bed will thwart the spread of the virus to other children. Getting plenty of rest during flu season (from November through March) and eating well will help keep the entire family's immune defenses in fighting shape. Once the virus has struck, decongestants may help to relieve some of the symptoms, but getting rest and drinking plenty of liquids are more important. Flu usually lasts from five to seven days. Most doctors recommend staying home at least 24 hours after your fever subsides.

READING FOOD LABELS

Please help! I am bent on changing my eating habits by selecting foods that are better for me, but I am confused by the labels. What does “all natural” mean? And how do I tell which preservatives are harmful? S.C., Landover, Md.

As long as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has no official defini-

tion for “natural,” there is no sure way a consumer can tell what it means. In other words, food manufacturers will continue to get as much mileage out of the term as they can, without necessarily including ingredients that are all good for you. Your best bet is to read nutrition labels. About 70 percent of the packages on store shelves carry nutrition labels which give the amounts of protein, fat, vitamins and other components contained in the food. The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, which regulates food labeling, has announced its intention to revamp label requirements. New labels would provide more information about saturated fat, fiber and cholesterol. When reading general labels, look for specific ingredients or processes, such as “no pesticides used,” or “no salt added.” But above all, keep in mind that the word “natural” on the label does not mean the ingredients are healthful or that nutritional experts would approve. For information on the chemicals and preservatives found in various foods, go to a nutrition center or health food store in your area and ask for a guide.

HYPERTENSION

I am a 47-year-old male. My doctor has been treating me for mild hypertension for the past several months, and now believes I may be experiencing high blood pressure only when in his office. He wants to monitor my blood pressure while I'm away from the office, but this test is rather expensive and my insurance does not cover it. I am not on any medication for the hypertension right now and would like to know if this test is worth my money? H.J., Shreveport, La.

One in three adults has hypertension, or high blood pressure as it is commonly called. The disease disproportionately affects Blacks and leads to death when untreated. Hypertension occurs when tiny arteries become constricted, causing the heart to pump harder, thus elevating the blood pressure. There has been a lot of controversy lately as to whether or not hyper-

tensives are accurately diagnosed. Many people are inclined to exhibit what is known as the “white coat syndrome” (high blood pressure in the doctor's office), but have normal heart size and function. The method of monitoring referred to by your doctor is designed to eliminate error by providing the physician with multiple blood pressure readings throughout the patient's normal routine day. It is usually done for a 24-hour period and before prescribing drug treatment. Recent studies indicate that monitoring may be one way to eliminate unnecessary drug treatment, which can result in harmful side effects.

Find out if your doctor recommends purchasing an inexpensive blood pressure measuring cuff. That way, you can take readings at home and at work, and share them with the doctor. Hypertensives—especially mild cases—can benefit from exercise, stress management, weight loss, improved diet—one that is low in sodium (salt) and fat, and high in fiber, such as cereals and whole grain bread.

JUMPING ROPE

CAN you provide some tips on jumping rope for fitness? M.A., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Funny you should ask. Fitness trendsetters are on the brink of a rope-jumping craze, as “Ropics” classes and videotapes are now available. When combined with another aerobics exercise, like brisk walking, rope jumping becomes unbeatable for burning fat, building cardiovascular fitness, agility, coordination and endurance. That could be why for years boxers have included rope-jumping in their training. Experts recommend starting off with walking or jogging, interspersing a couple of minutes of rope jumping, and continuing with the walk or jog. Tips to remember are: Wear aerobic shoes, use the right rope, use wrists and forearms (not shoulders) to turn the rope, try not to jump more than an inch off the ground, alternate feet, never jump on concrete (wooden floors are best suited for jumping).

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More African-Americans are falling victim to the "Silent Killer."

Here's what you can do to help reduce your risk.

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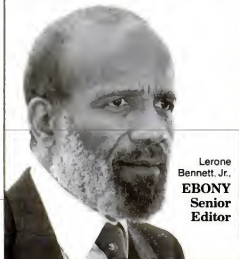
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EBONY BOOK SHELF



THE production diaries that actor/writer/director Spike Lee has published concurrent with the opening of each of his films are almost as anxiously awaited as the movies themselves. Like the movies, the books—which include production notes, storyboards and the final screenplay—have gotten progressively bigger and slightly more ambitious with each effort, a reflection of Lee's growing stature as a filmmaker and, perhaps, literary figure.



Mo' Better Blues (Fireside Books/Simon & Schuster, \$12.95), written by Lee and his frequent collaborator, Lisa Jones, is his most expansive behind-the-scenes volume yet. It chronicles the writing, casting and filming of the movie of the same name and contains more than 150 photographs (taken by Lee's brother, David) that offer an intimate look at movie-making.

Lee's personal diary of the shooting is interspersed with the unvarnished comments of the cast and crew. As always, Lee includes flattering and not-so-flattering observations. The candor is refreshing and illuminating.

Mo' Better Blues is not the Spike Lee story. It is the start-to-finish story of the making of a movie done in the Spike Lee style: honest and original.

THOUGH bookstores are crowded with volumes on child-rearing, few of the current offerings address the particular problems facing Black parents as they attempt to raise children in today's racially complex world.

Derek S. Hopson and his wife, Darlene Powell-Hopson, two clinical psychologists who live in Middlefield, Conn., have stepped into this void to provide help. Their new book, *Different and Wonderful: Raising Black Children In A Race-Conscious Society* (Prentice-Hall, \$19.95), offers welcome advice, guidance and reassurance for Black parents who are struggling with difficult issues.

Using quizzes and anecdotes from both their private practice and their personal experiences as parents, the Powells attempt to help Black parents successfully meet the challenges of child-rearing, as well as direct them to other helpful resources. In addition, *Different and Wonderful* includes a guide to books, magazines, plays, movies, museums, toys and cultural centers that celebrate Black culture.

As the Powells state: "We have to find ways to keep our children alive and interested while we fight ignorance, bigotry and racism. It's a frustrating, humiliating and exhausting battle that we must win because the alternative is unthinkable."

This Road Since Freedom (Carolina Wren Press, \$17.50), a collection of poems (some dating back to the 1940s) written by noted scholar C. Eric Lincoln, professor of religion and Black culture at Duke University.

Racism: American Style, A Corporate Gift (Travis, \$17.95), an examination of racism in corporate America based upon interviews conducted by the author with 122 Black executives, by Dempsey J. Travis.

Our New Baby (Pleasant Co., \$19.95), part book/part toy, this action pop-up book features working zippers, tieable ribbons, squeaking toys and a host of other moveable parts designed to prepare toddlers for the arrival of a new baby sibling, by Pleasant T. Rowland with illustrations by Nick Backes.

What Black Men Look For In Black Women (The Red Sea Press, \$5.95), the results of a nationwide survey of 1,000 Black men, by Wendell Smith.

DIFFERENT AND Wonderful



THE HOPSONS, DEREK S. HOPSON
and LIL DEWEE HOPSON

The Days of Rondo (Minnesota Historical Society Press, \$19.95), a

memoir of life in pre-WWII St. Paul, Minn., when Rondo Avenue was the heart of the Black community, by Evelyn Fairbanks.

Reading Black, Reading Feminist (Penguin, \$14.95), a collection of 26 original essays by leading literary critics who explore the recurring themes and cultural influences that are common in the growing body of Black feminist literature, edited by Henry Louis Gates.

BACKSTAGE

TRENDY. Comfortable. Versatile. Stylish.

These are the adjectives used by college students to describe the clothes they prefer. And that is exactly what they can find in EBONY's annual "campus fashions" feature.

Each year we feature students from five or six historically Black colleges. After receiving student recommendations from the colleges, EBONY selects male and female students to model the latest fall fashions from top local department stores. An EBONY editor and photographer travel to each campus to coordinate the sessions. Fashion Fair makeup artists and a hair stylist are also on hand at each location to give the students the same attention and make-over granted professional models.

When EBONY ran its first modern-day "campus fashions" feature in October 1988, we showcased students from Morehouse and Spelman colleges in Atlanta, Dillard University in New Orleans, Howard University in Washing-



With Frederick Douglass statue as backdrop, Morgan State University students Lori P. Scales and Spencer T. Allen model latest fashions.

ton, D.C., North Carolina A & T State University in Greensboro, N.C., and Texas Southern University in Houston.

After getting positive feedback from students and college administrators across the country, we decided to feature six additional schools the following year. In the fall of 1989, we featured students from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Central State University and Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio, Fisk University in Nashville, Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss., and Talladega College in Talladega, Ala.

This year we showcase Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C., North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C., Morgan State University in Baltimore, LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis, and Virginia Union University in Richmond.

Though the styles are gradually changing, we find that students continue to love comfortable sweaters, cotton pants, and leather jackets and skirts. Variations of dressy shorts are also favorites with the women. And this year, college coeds are sporting the popular knit leggings.

But college students and their fashion choices are not new to EBONY. Back in the late '40s, we ran several fashion articles featuring college students. The first one, "Shopping For That College Look," appeared in November 1946, exactly one year after the magazine was founded.

The revived "campus fashions" feature is yet another indication of EBONY's ongoing sensitivity to the interests and needs of young Blacks. Our recent special issue on "The New Generation Of The '90s" focused on the problems and potentialities of young Blacks and highlighted the best and brightest among this emerging power group. The annual "young leaders" feature, in which we introduce talented, community-conscious Black leaders age 30 and younger, is also a popular feature. We also keep in touch with the college generation by running stories on personalities and developments at predominantly White and historically Black institutions (see "The Class of 1990" in the August issue).

Young and older readers will find a lot of food for thought in the historic 45th anniversary issue, which will feature articles from a blue-ribbon list of writers, including President George Bush, former President Jimmy Carter, Lena Horne, Arthur Ashe, Coretta Scott King and L. Douglas Wilder.

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ON *Compositions* (Elektra) Anita Baker ignores rap, funk and dance rhythms as she continues to bring her jazz influences to her soulful contemporary pop-gospel sound. Daring to break away from the proven glitzy style of her previous successes with the three-million selling *Rapture* and *Giving You The Best That I Got* recordings, Baker seeks an even jazzier ambience by recording vocals for *Compositions* live in the studio with her rhythm section. The result is a looser, more spontaneous feel. As the recording's executive producer, and having composed seven of the nine songs, Baker again collaborates with producer Michael Powell to present a work that is reflective of her personal style and taste. Most of the songs are slow, moody ballads that take listeners on extended journeys into the joys and heartbreak of adult love. The one exception is the more upbeat "Fairy Tale," which, along with "Talk To Me" and "Lonely," compares favorably with previous hits "Sweet Love" and "Giving You The Best That I Got."

Jazz pianist McCoy Tyner is at his best on *Things Ain't What They Used To Be* (Blue Note), his new recording, which can be considered a sequel to his commercially and artistically successful 1989 *Revelations*. Recorded in a classical concert hall, this set includes jazz standards, Tyner originals, as well as compositions by Coltrane, Monk, Mercer Ellington, Billy

Strayhorn and Clifford Brown. Key to the appeal of this recording are the solo pieces by guitarist John Scofield and tenor saxophonist George Adams.

With *Family* (Command), The Jackson Family (no relation to Michael and Janet) makes a bold entree into the gospel recording industry. Produced by Monty Jackson and Paul Tucker, the recording ranges in mood from the pop-flavored "Do Right" to the inspiring "Family," which utilizes full string and vocal arrangements. Jackson family members—Monty, Matthan, Marla, Maury, Monica and Micoe—all have extensive experience singing in church choirs and with each other, and each is talented in his or her own right.

ALSO RECOMMENDED: Branford Marsalis' *Crazy People Music* (Columbia), produced by brother Delfeayo Marsalis, and the first full outing by the Branford Marsalis Quartet, which includes pianist Kenny Kirkland, bassist Bob Hurst and drummer Jeff Watts; *Whispers, More Of The Night* (Capitol); Marcus Roberts, *Deep In The Shed* (BMG); Roy Hargrove, *Diamond In The Rough* (BMG); saxophonist Bunky Green, *Healing The Pain* (Delos); Wynton Marsalis, *Standard Time, Vol. 3* (Columbia); The Pointer Sisters, *Right Rhythm* (Motown); and *Blues In The Mississippi Night* (RYKO) which features Memphis Slim, Big Bill Broonzy and Sonny Boy Williamson.

—Lynn Norment

LISTEN UP

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How To Attract The Opposite Sex

*It takes more
than good looks
to be successful
in the
competitive
romance market*

By Renée D. Turner



Attracting attention has more to do with charisma than with raw good looks, says Carole Wade (above, r.), a Los Angeles graphics designer and entrepreneur. Physical fitness also is an attractive quality, says Donald R. Davidson (left), chief financial officer of a Chicago investment banking firm and a fitness buff.

ROMANCE is a hot but sometimes elusive commodity. Almost everybody wants it; few know how to get it, and even fewer know how to keep it.

A popular belief is that people simply fall in love because of something mystical or because the stars line up in the right position. But those who study the subject say there is a lot you can do to enhance your chances of attracting a suitable mate.

"Romance is a very deliberate process," says Dr. Larry Davis, a Washington University (St. Louis) psychologist. People search for mates with, as Davis puts it, similar "romantic market values"—the sum of our romantic worth.

In today's competitive romance market it is best to leave nothing to chance.

Actress Vionetta McGee, who appears with her husband Carl Lumbly in the film *To Sleep With Anger*, says she was "intrigued" by his musical taste and by his manners.



ATTRACT *Continued*

Relationship experts say you should know what type of involvement you want—serious or casual—and you should be realistic about the type of mate you hope to attract. Then put yourself in position to meet Mr. or Ms. Right. "Going to nightclubs exclusively cuts you off from a vast number of possibilities," says Dr. Victor McCauley, a Dayton, Ohio, psychologist. Instead, counselors say, you could join

a professional club or association, go to an art gallery opening, or take an evening course. Churches also have activities for singles.

If you are experiencing a romance drought, counselors suggest you increase your "market value" and thus your attractiveness by following a few simple rules.

♥ Appear approachable

A pleasant voice, good eye contact,

and a warm smile make you appear approachable. Designer clothes aren't as impressive as a dynamic smile, researchers say. Flirting with a man or woman in whom you are interested is another approach, says Dr. Virginia Beard, a St. Louis psychologist who thinks Black women have lost the art of batting their eyes, walking seductively and flirting in general.

♥ Increase the "intrigue factor"

You can become more "intriguing," Dr. Larry Davis says, by finding an unusual interest, such as scuba diving or collecting Ghanaian art or Portuguese jewelry. Traveling to exotic places or becoming well-versed in a sport can also make you more interesting. Donald R. Davidson Jr., chief financial officer for a Chicago investment banking firm, says what initially interested him in his girlfriend of eight years is that she had traveled to South Africa. Actress Vionetta McGee, who appears with her husband Carl Lumbly in the film *To Sleep With Anger*, says she was "intrigued" by his musical taste—he played Prince's *Purple Rain* during rehearsal—and by his manners. "The day before we met on the set of *Cagney and Lacey*, Carl [Lumbly] called me to introduce himself. No actor had ever done that before," she says. "I thought, 'This man's got manners . . . I was really intrigued.'"

♥ Dress to enhance, not to entice

Many people, according to San Francisco social scientist Dr. Julia Hare, "get caught up with the face, the body, sexual attraction and the check-book. We see these things before we even talk with the person." Unusual and well-coordinated colors and well-tailored clothing are also eye-catching. A unique pin, ring, cologne or perfume are good conversation starters. "Dress is not about money but about taste," says Dr. Hare, who, with her psychologist-sociologist husband, Dr. Nathan Hare, has written books on Black male-female relationships. Too much "flesh hanging out" can send the wrong message, she says. What you're about is more important than what you are wearing.

♥ Don't get lost in the crowd

No man wants to wade through a group of girlfriends to ask a woman out, Dr. Davis says. A woman who walks into a party or club alone attracts more attention, as well as a woman accompanied only by one girlfriend or platonic friend. A man attending a so-



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After working to win him over, Dr. Anne Bullock was married to Dr. Lawrence Sanders, an Atlanta internist, just over a year ago. Dr. Bullock, also an internist, made sure her hair and makeup were perfect and that she was clad in a bright, flattering outfit on days she was to meet with Dr. Sanders, who at the time was her health clinic supervisor. What attracted him to Bullock, besides her pleasant demeanor, he says, was that she had similar values to his own.

"A lot of times we forget the kind of mask we have on. When others see a smile, it is very difficult for them to frown. A smile begets a smile. When you project that, it becomes contagious. That's one way to attract attention."

—Dr. Victor McCarley, a Dayton, Ohio, interpersonal relationships counselor

ATTRACT *Continued*

cial event in a threesome with a couple also appears less threatening.

♥ Broaden your conversational repertoire

In most circles, simply saying "Yo, baby! What's up?" won't win you any brownie points. It also is considered somewhat offensive. But you don't have to be an egghead to carry on a conversation either. "People like creative minds and are stimulated by their mates from a mental perspective," says Dr. McCarley. When trying to catch the eye of someone in your social circle, it's better to participate in conversations rather than to sit in silence. Keep abreast of current events, sports,

community developments, etc. Another turn-off, says Dr. McCarley, is to talk excessively about yourself. "To say, 'I'm a banker. I make this amount of money,' instead of sharing ideas and finding out other perspectives hints of narcissism." A more attractive quality is to be a good listener.

♥ Be assertive, but not desperately aggressive

Dating rules are a little more flexible now, but many taboos still exist. A little friendly assertiveness by women is appreciated by men, researchers say. Carole Wade, a Los Angeles graphic artist and entrepreneur, didn't get a response the first time she sent a business card to a prospective date, but the second attempt led to a lengthy relationship. The climate is generally favorable for a woman to ask a man out on a date or to offer him her phone number. In fact, Donald Davidson of Chicago says, "I think it's flattering when a woman asks me out." But the prevailing thought is that it's a little pushy to send a drink to a man. And "pushy" and "macho" are considered unattractive. When a man is overbearing in his presentation or attempts to dominate the conversation instead of respecting the feelings of others, he is usually viewed as too aggressive. Equally repelling are people who act like they haven't had a date in a decade. Counselors ad-

vise singles in the romance market to relax, have fun and don't take rejection personally. Even people who are successful usually hear a lot of no's before they hear a yes. Dr. Anne Bullock, an Atlanta-area physician, says before her marriage to Dr. Lawrence Sanders, he rejected her offer to go out for dinner a couple of times because they worked together, then he finally consented.

♥ Exude confidence

Standing tall, and showing pride, inner peace and self-confidence say you feel good about yourself. "People who are timid or hesitant are not going to attract the same kind of attention as people who walk, talk, smile and speak with confidence," says Dr. Maisha B. H. Bennett, who heads a Chicago psychological testing service.

♥ Show self-sufficiency, with a pinch of vulnerability

Offering to pick up the tab if you're sharing a drink with someone in whom you are interested shows you can take care of yourself. When done by a single woman, the gesture also says you are interested in equity, romance specialists have observed. "It says, 'I can take care of myself. I did before I met you, but I would love to share myself with you,'" Dr. Hare says. "Then the other person knows he is not getting a daughter, but a mate. And she is not getting a son, but someone who is willing to make sure her needs are met, but without saying I am in charge." But too much self-sufficiency leaves the other person feeling useless, counselors caution.

♥ Stay physically fit

With half of the population overweight, people who stay physically fit and are of average weight are at least 50 percent ahead of their competition. Men and women alike are attracted to mates who are healthy, happy, shapely and concerned about their own overall well-being.

♥ Have a sense of humor

A lot of people can appreciate humor in others, counselors say. It's been her experience, says Carole Wade, that "men like women who aren't afraid to really laugh."

♥ Be positive

"It ain't your sign, it's your attitude" that makes you interesting, says Dr. Larry Davis. People who are upbeat about developing good relationships attract those with similar attitudes.



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The results were tradition-boggling. Men and women alike, no matter what mixer, clearly preferred the taste of Bacardi Amber to that of Canadian whisky.

Upsets can be instructive. For a more pleasing highball, take your mixer, detour around your favorite whisky and head for a more refreshing idea: Bacardi Amber.



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Campus Styles '90

Bold colors and simple comfort define college chic

COLLEGE students returned to campus this fall in an array of styles suited for their "on-the-move" lifestyles. Boldness and simplicity best define their style.

The essentials of campus style are showcased on the following pages by students from Bennett and LeMoyné-Owen colleges and Lincoln (Pa.), Morgan State, North Carolina Central and Virginia Union universities.

The typical coed's wardrobe includes traditional styles such as stone-washed jeans and blazers. But their dress also leaves room for the fashionable stretch leggings with blowy cover-ups as well as the latest "Arabian" pants. Male students also have adopted a look of comfort and versatility. Their wardrobe includes baggy pants and other loose-fitting clothes.

Some students prefer the casual look of khakis with leather bomber jackets. Many of them, though, can never have enough sweaters, whether they choose to wear a crewneck with a cotton polo or the ageless cardigan.

Many students keep clothes for special events. That's particularly true of college seniors, many of whom have double-breasted blazers for those all-important job interviews.

Campus colors this year are more vivid than before. Neon pink, shocking green, radical red, electric turquoise and earthy brown predominate. Gold contrasts with black, and navy with white in bold plaids.

The collegian's attire is fashioned mostly from natural and richly textured fabrics. Leather and wool are still favorites, but the new "poly" blends and washable silks are gaining popularity.

Fashions: Hudson-Belk of Durham, N.C. and Dillard's of Greensboro, N.C.

Hair stylist: Reba Kennedy

Makeup: Iretha Buchanan and Rosalind Edmonds for Fashion Fair Cosmetics.





**Bennett College, Greensboro, N.C.
North Carolina Central
University, Durham, N.C.**

Putting a professional touch on collegiate style are (left) Terry Steed Jr., a North Carolina Central University biology major, and Wendelin Douglas, a Bennett College business major. Steed of Kalamazoo, Mich., is smartly dressed for interviews in the medical research field in a double breasted Geoffrey Beene blazer. Douglas of Richmond, Va., will impress banking recruiters in this collarless navy suit. Above, Douglas wears a classic jacket and shorts set. Steed sports a white sweater, navy shorts and turquois jacket.



**LeMoyne-Owen College
Memphis, Tenn.**

Charles E. Yates Jr., 22, is ready for his business administration classes in this Generra cotton blend patterned sweater and Bugle Boy cotton fatigues (above, right). Marilyn A. Gunn, 20, a pre-med junior, is fashionably sporty in black cotton knit leggings and turtle neck topped with pigskin bomber jacket. At right, Yates, a Baptist minister and media director for the college's Ministerial Alliance Council, looks great in a lime green cotton Egyptian print shirt and cotton blend pants. Gunn, who has a full scholarship, is ready for classes and a lot more in this lively floral print jumpsuit with elasticized waist.

Fashion coordinator: Dehra P. Brown for Goldsmith's
Hairstylist: Bonnie Bushy
Makeup: Evelyn J. Allen for Fashion Fair Cosmetics





Fashions: Strawbridge & Clothier of Philadelphia
Hairstylist: Tonya Allen, Trisha's Stylen
Makeup: Dorothy Johnson Harris for Fashion Fair Cosmetics

Lincoln University Lincoln, Pa.

With carefree style, Tawana Stewart, a Lincoln sophomore majoring in psychology, and Frederick Thomas Jr., a junior English major (above), are ready for class or a football game at the scenic college founded in 1854. Stewart of Lincoln, Pa., sports a lime wool derby, Palmetto's wool "boyfriend jacket," a white cotton baseball polo, and stone-washed button-fly jeans.

Thomas, a Philadelphian, is clad in a black and teal crew-neck sweater, a teal, mock turtleneck, and stone-washed jeans. Thomas is equipped to handle his student journalism tasks (top right) in a turquoise mock turtleneck sweater, a black, white and turquoise cardigan and black corduroy trousers. Ready to dazzle campus recruiters, Stewart, a Lincoln Gospel Ensemble member, wears a turquoise, double-breasted jacket and a stylish skirt, and Thomas wears a black suit with a white woven-collar shirt.



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Morgan State University Baltimore, Md.

Showing versatility, Lori P. Scales, a senior Morgan communications major, and Spencer T. Allen, a senior marketing major, could go to the college social or to a corporate work-study job in Scales' double-breasted wool ensemble by Jones of New York and Allen's double-breasted wool suit by Nino Cerruti. At left (inset), Allen, of Lanham, Md., looks studious in a gold and black Basiks sweater and Levi Dockers. He and Scales of Ft. Washington, Md., also are comfortable in casual wear. She sports a leather skirt and fringed sweater, while Allen dresses in a leather bomber jacket, khaki pants and print shirt.

Fashions: Hecht Co. of Baltimore

Hairstylist: Hair Above salon
Makeup: Denise McNeil for Fashion Fair Cosmetics

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smartly attired for a
whirlwind of campus
functions in this
peach cotton blend
ribbed-knit sweater
dress and big shawl
wrap. Jonathan Cole-
man, tight end for
the Virginia Union
Panthers, is a stand-
out escort in this
purple cotton shirt by
Claiborne and black
cotton pants and
wool cardigan.

Fashions: Thalhimers
Hairstylist: Carlton
Thomas for Carlton's
Concepts
Makeup: Robinette
Johnson for Fashion
Fair Cosmetics



For those dressy campus affairs, Turner is a knockout in this hot pink, low-back satin cocktail dress trimmed in rhinestones. Coleman makes his own fashion statement in a Black wool suit with white shirt and purple print silk tie, as they examine artifacts featured in the school's Sellman Collection of African Art. These fashionable suede jackets (right) are perfect for fall's nippy weather. His is a Ralph Lauren forest green bomber, and hers is an anorak style in brown with fur-trimmed hood.



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Managing Money In Modern Families



Mark and Sheila Bowie of Hazel Crest, Ill., continue to carefully manage their money in hopes of purchasing a larger home and securing their daughter's future college education. While they were still in college, the Bowies began their financial planning—four years before they were married.

A little financial planning at the outset can go a long way

By Alex Poinsett

IF you haven't won the lottery, inherited a gold mine or reaped an investment bonanza, you should be fashioning a money-management plan for your family. Experts say the time is long gone when you could provide for their needs simply by working hard and stashing a little bit away monthly. Regardless of your income or whether you're planning for your child's college

education, retirement or other goals, you must consider the impact of taxes, inflation, interest rates, savings and investments on your family's future.

With that in mind, Mark and Sheila Bowie of Hazel Crest, Ill., started joint financial planning in 1984 while they were still in college—four years before their marriage. "We decided that we didn't want to pay maybe \$600 in monthly rent that could be going on our own home," recalls Mark, 29, a social worker. "So right after graduation from the University of Illinois, I started working and saving money. Sheila did the same after graduating from Bradley University two years later."

Methodically, the Bowies saved the \$3,000 down payment on their \$70,000 home and moved in after a Jamaica honeymoon. Today, blessed with a baby daughter and living well with-

in their combined income of nearly \$58,000, they're planning to buy a larger home within two years and to invest in mutual funds. Believing that working for themselves (rather than someone else) will be their ultimate financial security, Mark plans to turn his amateur cabinetmaking into a business within 10 years, while Sheila parlayes her nurse training into an adult-care service.

However, both understand that entrepreneurship dreams are no substitute for thoughtful money management. It begins with a detailed analysis of your financial resources, needs and goals. Are your present savings, investments and insurances right for your family? Can you generate more savings? Can you save on taxes? Can you provide for your children's college education? Can you retire comfortably when you're ready? How much money



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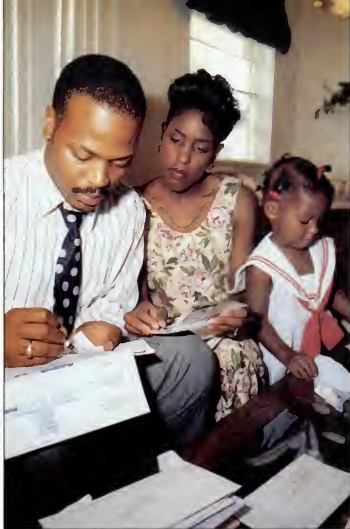
In their Houston home, Victor and Suzette Fears take steps to manage their finances. Purchasing with cash rather than credit cards is one of their ways of living within their means. Blessed with two children (opposite page), the Fears realize the importance of providing a financially stable home.

MANAGING MONEY *Continued*
will your family need to live comfortably should you die?

Some of your answers depend on the family budget you set up and review about every six months. Like a ship's compass, it tells whether you're headed in the right direction or sailing in circles. Before paying anyone, you should first pay yourself. That is: 1) Set aside between \$2,000 and \$5,000 in bank savings, in a credit union or money market fund as a short-term *emergency fund*. 2) Insure your life (to replace family's lost income in the event of your death), home, health and auto. 3) Invest to accumulate wealth (as opposed to income) and avoid using your investments as emergency funds.

Victor and Suzette Fears of Houston, Texas, both 28 and the parents of two, married four years ago after courting two years. They believe that God will provide for their needs, but they're almost debt-free because they usually buy with cash rather than credit cards, which can become debt traps. Victor, a department store salesman, and Suzette, a schoolteacher, believe that anything they can't pay for within 90 days, they can't afford.

Unlike many traditional Black fami-



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lies where the husband was presumed to be automatically the most adept at handling finances, Victor and Suzette started out quite differently. "We established when we were first married that there was no *my* paycheck and *your* paycheck," Suzette recalls. "There was no *my* money and *your* money. It was *our* money. Whatever

"We decided that we didn't want to pay maybe \$600 in monthly rent that could be going on our own home."

—Mark Bowie



bills we acquired before we were married weren't *his* bills or *my* bills. They were *our* bills. We always worked together on our finances. If either one disagreed on a possible purchase for the house, we simply didn't make it. But if I buy some clothes that he doesn't like, he's not going to ask me to take them back. He knows that I like them. But I won't want to wear them if he doesn't like them."

And so in this spirit of togetherness, encouraged by many financial experts, the couple manage their finances jointly. "We used to disagree over my desire to tithe to our church," Suzette says. "We hadn't tithed in the beginning and I wanted to. Victor was very practical in arguing that we couldn't afford it. But we manage it now."

While the couple live comfortably in their lower-middle income neighborhood, their 10-year plan is to move into

a more plush area and to live quite well with the \$100,000 that Victor expects to earn from his own marketing firm. Be advised, however, that if you have a similar long-range goal, you may have to drastically alter it because of an investment *second in size only to buying your home*—the cost of a college education for your children.

Currently, typical yearly tuitions for four-year, public institutions, attended

Continued on Next Page

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MANAGING MONEY *Continued*

attended by 71 percent of undergrads, are about \$2,186 for each child, according to Research Associates of Washington (D.C.). Considering that tuition is only about one-fourth of total costs which include room, board, books, etc., you're talking \$10,000 or more a year for each child at today's rate. Estimates for, say, 10 years from now are even higher.

So you have to invest in your child's higher education just as you would in your home or automobile. If your child is eight years old, for instance, you have about 10 years to save his/her college monies as against a typical 30 years to pay off a house. Will your child attend a public institution of higher education or a private institution where costs have gone through the roof? Will your child live at home, while in college, live with a relative or live off-campus in a cheap room, perhaps pool-

ing food costs with other students? Guidance on these issues and others can be found in *Higher Education Tuition*, a book published by Research Associates (2605 Klinge Rd., N.W., Washington, D.C. 2008).

The book details current and projected college costs and will help you calculate how much you must save yearly for each child's college education. To pay the costs, you can set up a bank savings account earmarked for that purpose and yielding about 9 percent annual interest. Or you can purchase U.S. Series EE Savings Bonds. The interest they accumulate will not be taxed until your child is 14 years old. Or you can establish a minor's trust.

Meanwhile, you owe it to yourself to program your overall family finances to meet today's rapidly changing economic conditions. Otherwise, you run the risk of becoming a cork dangerously adrift on a turbulent sea.

10 Money Tips

1. Make joint financial decisions.
2. Save at least 10 percent of monthly income in a short-term emergency fund totaling between \$2,000 and \$5,000. One way is to do things that are pleasurable but don't cost money.
3. Don't procrastinate about setting up financial goals.
4. Properly insure your life, health, home, auto. Review and perhaps replace any ordinary life policy which is more than five years old. It's probably obsolete.
5. Maintain a good credit rating by paying your bills, not overspending and by avoiding most credit cards. Postpone buying expensive cars, lavish clothes, etc., during early married years.
6. Own rather than rent housing because of tax benefits.
7. For your child's college education, consider purchasing Series EE U.S. savings bonds which allow you to defer tax on the interest until the child is 14. Also consider purchasing tax-exempt municipal bonds.
8. Postpone setting up an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) until you're in your 40s. However, if self-employed, you must have an IRA or a Keogh Plan.
9. For long-range financial growth, invest in equities (mutual funds, stocks, bonds, limited partnership real estate, etc.), but purchase individual stocks only with the help of a professional money manager.
10. If your annual income is more than \$50,000, you should consult a professional financial planner.

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Are **BLACKS** Giving Away The **BLUES**?



Blues festivals, like Chicago's annual outdoor extravaganza (above), typically are flooded with a sea of White blues fans, but very few Blacks. Even blues legends such as B.B. King (right) say Whites now make up the bulk of their audiences. But up-and-coming blues artists like Valerie Wellington (opposite page) say that with more exposure the blues will catch on with younger Blacks.



By Charles Whitaker

NORTHWESTERN University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall—a plush, 1,300-seat marvel of acoustic engineering—resounds with the gutsy wails of blues master B.B. King. In this citadel of classical music, located on the university's Evanston, Ill., campus, a worked-up throng of listeners, 95 percent of them White and yuppie-ish, clap arrhythmically as, ironically, King sings of the Black man and woman, the pain and the pleasures, the loving and the leaving that are mainstays of the blues idiom.

Upscale Whites, like the ones packed into Pick-Staiger, have become the principal supporters of King and the vast majority of the Black artists

White fans keep the music and its artists going strong



who make a living playing and singing the blues.

Peek into almost any of the country's popular blues clubs and you'll find them filled with Whites, young and old, who display a passionate affection for the music. At the outdoor blues festivals that have become a summer staple in cities like Chicago, Jackson, Miss., and St. Louis, only a few Black faces can be spotted in the overflowing crowds.

It is one of the ironies of modern music that the blues—an art form originated and still performed largely by African-Americans—today draws an amazingly small pool of Black fans.

Even King, one of the best-known blues artists in the country, has noticed an appreciable drop in the num-

ber of Blacks attending his concerts. "I'd say that 70 to 80 percent of the people in most of the audiences are White," he says. "At some of the colleges, there might not hardly be any Blacks at all."

Are Blacks giving away the blues and, subsequently, relinquishing part of a rich musical heritage? Artists like Grammy-winning blues singer and guitarist John Lee Hooker think so. "Black people today don't seem that interested in the blues," he says. "They want to get away from it. They think the blues is a downer, something left over from slavery times."

Since the late 1960s, when Motown Records changed the sound of popular music, Blacks have marched—or danced—to a beat slightly different





White celebrities like actor Dan Aykroyd (above, l.), a longtime blues fan, have used their clout to help artists like Koko Taylor (above, r.) gain national exposure. Grammy winner John Lee Hooker (below) says White rock stars are the ones perpetuating the blues.



BLUES *Continued*

than that of the blues. As musical styles continued to evolve, giving rise to forms as varied as rock, reggae and rap, Blacks drifted further and further from the blues, not recognizing the direct link between contemporary music and

its antecedents, namely jazz and blues.

"A lot of Black people today don't know that the blues is where the music they listen to today comes from," says Lincoln McGraw Beauchamp, co-founder of The Chicago Blues Artists Coalition, an advocacy group dedicated to the preservation of the blues and to preventing the exploitation of blues artists. "If you study the blues and you listen to rap and Michael Jackson and all of this kind of stuff, you learn that what they're doing today can be traced right back."

Still, the earthy, unadorned quality of the blues does not always sit well on ears accustomed to the slick production of contemporary music. "Most Black people think the blues aren't sophisticated enough," says singer Etta James whose repertoire runs the gamut from pop to blues.

But James, like many, feels that there are a lot of Blacks who are closet blues fans. "They're the same people who will have a Saturday night fish fry," says James, "invite their mama over, play all the B.B. King, T-Bone Walker and Howlin' Wolf they can get their hands on, but shut all the doors and windows up tight 'cause they don't want anybody to know."

Blues artists also acknowledge that their music can be a hard sell to young people who associate it with pain and strife. But they also point out that the blues is just as often about good times and the perseverance of the Black American spirit. "The blues is about life," says B.B. King. "Yeah it's about heartache and hurt, but it's about joys and happiness and all the things that

happen in life. It's about truth. That's why people like it when they give it a chance."

Making it all the more difficult for the blues to attract younger Black fans is the fact that blues artists get little or no exposure on popular radio stations. A few breakthrough artists like singer/guitarist Robert Cray, one of the new breed of young blues performers, have managed to crack the barrier and get limited air play on Top 40 stations. But the albums of most blues artists mainly are relegated to small, esoteric college radio stations.

Yet, it is largely because of those small college stations that blues music is enjoying its current renaissance. "If you look at the audiences for most blues shows, they are made up of a lot of college-educated White people who were introduced to the music by their school stations," says the 35-year-old Cray, who was drawn to the blues in college, a time when he was introduced to the music of artists like Buddy Guy and Elmore James.

White rock groups like the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, who were greatly influenced by Muddy Waters and a host of other blues artists, have also contributed to the growing popularity of the blues among young Whites. High profile White groupies like actor Dan Aykroyd, one of the stars of the 1979 hit movie, *The Blues Brothers*, have helped some blues artists gain national exposure by showcasing them on television and on national concert tours.

"By playing the blues and helping get some blues artists on television, a lot of these White groups have opened people's eyes and ears to the blues," says reigning blues queen Koko Taylor, who has made several appearances on the *Saturday Night Live* television show. "That's opened a lot of doors for the blues. People who hadn't paid a lot of attention to, or who never respected, the blues before were listening to it and liking it."

John Lee Hooker, who has a following of ardent fans that includes White rockers such as Eric Clapton, Pete Townsend and Bonnie Raitt, says that were it not for White artists and fans he would be unable to sustain his career. "It's these White kids who've never been exposed to the blues at home who come up to me and tell me how much they like my music and want to keep it alive," he says.

But a corps of Black blues performers, like singer Valerie Wellington, are committed to keeping the



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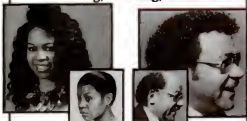
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Junior Wells (l.) and Buddy Guy (r.) are among the artists/entrepreneurs who are dedicated to preserving the blues tradition. Guy's Chicago nightclub, a hotspot of traditional blues singing and playing, is one of many clubs in the city with a large and loyal White clientele.

BLUES *Continued*

blues tradition alive and well in the Black community. Wellington, a co-founder of The Chicago Blues Artists Coalition, says education is the key to bringing Blacks back to the blues. Her organization is doing its part by taking mini blues revues to public schools, introducing a wide range of Chicago children to the music and cultivating a generation of new fans.

"We have to start with the children, teaching them about our heritage," she says. "And the blues are very much a part of that heritage. I find once you expose children to it, they like it, and suddenly you have a new generation of blues fans."

And things are changing. Young Blacks are slowly trickling back to the blues, according to many artists.

Big-city clubs that once catered to a completely White clientele are beginning to attract a small but growing number of young Blacks. The infrequent appearances that artists such as B.B. King have made on immensely popular television programs such as *The Cosby Show* and *The Arsenio Hall Show* have helped generate new interest in the blues among younger Blacks. The evidence, some say, is in the increasing number of young Black musicians who are beginning to approach artists to ask about the music, its tech-

nique and origins. "Lately—I'd say in the last five years—I've gotten more and more young Black musicians coming up to me and talking about this music, wanting to know more about it and how to get into it," says Robert Cray. "That's a sign to me that there are probably a lot more out there who are interested in it."

"By playing the blues and helping get some blues artists on television, a lot of these White groups have opened people's eyes and ears to the blues."

—Koko Taylor

But that sign is not bright enough for some blues artists who fear that in a generation or two the only musicians carrying on their tradition will be White. "It could happen," says Etta James, "and it would be a shame, because blues and jazz are the only forms of music originated in this country and they were both started by Blacks. Wouldn't it be something if we gave it away because we didn't recognize it as good music?"

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Hiding from an abusive boyfriend, Renee Sibley hunts for an apartment for her family while living in a hidden shelter for women and their children.

Why Some Men Batter Women (And Why Some Women Take It)

*Domestic violence
is America's most
common crime*

By Marchel'le Renise Barber

BEFORE you finish reading this paragraph, one Black woman will be battered by her husband or boyfriend. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence says a woman is battered by her husband or boyfriend in this country every 15 seconds, making domestic violence America's most common—but least reported—crime. And, experts report, many of the victims are Black.

Vickii Coffey, 39, says she was one of the large number of Black victims. Coffey, who married her childhood sweet-



An abused woman and her daughter are comforted by Vickii Coffey, the director of Greenhouse, a Chicago shelter for battered women and their children. Coffey, who is happily married now, says she, too, was physically abused during an earlier marriage.



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At her hidden Chicago shelter, Coffey provides counsel and encouragement to a group of women. She says there are many reasons why women feel "trapped" in abusive relationships and continue to remain in those situations.

BATTERED WOMEN *Continued*

heart when she was 19, says her dream marriage turned into a nightmare of violence that often resulted in her hospitalization. Eventually, she says, she turned the violence inward, blaming herself for her plight.

After eight years, Coffey filed for divorce, saying, among other things, that she feared for the life of her two small sons, one of whom, she says, tried to protect her from the abuse.

"The question I get all the time is, 'Why would a woman stay there and take something like that? What's her problem?'"

—Vicki Coffey,
director of Greenhouse,
a Chicago shelter

Today, almost 13 years later, Vicki Coffey is the executive director of Greenhouse, Chicago's oldest and largest shelter for battered women and their children. Now happily married, she fights to keep the doors of her shelter open—as well as the minds of an unsympathetic public which often

can't understand why battered women remain with their abusers. "The question I get all the time is, 'Why would a woman stay there and take something like that? What's her problem?'" says Coffey who now counsels women on their options to violence. "That is victim blaming. There are many factors that prevent her from leaving."

Unlike many White women who are battered, Black women, Coffey says, often lack the financial resources that allow them to escape their abusive homes. Moreover, police often minimize domestic violence complaints and fail to tell women about their legal rights or refer them to shelters for battered women. Friends and family members often refuse to help because they are conditioned to believe that what goes on between a man and "his woman" is private. They also fear that protecting a woman against her abuser makes them targets. In some cases, adds Coffey, female friends are victims of domestic violence, too.

Dr. Jacquelyne Johnson Jackson, a medical sociologist at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., says many women who remain with abusive partners have been conditioned to be subservient from infancy. As children, they are taught "their

place"—a passive role which includes serving their fathers, brothers and other male figures while putting their wishes last and never asserting their rights. In this type of household, male siblings always receive more praise and support and usually spend more quality time with their fathers. Female siblings are limited to a circle of female family members, a group which is traditionally submissive to and dependent upon males for survival, explains Dr. Jackson.

"As soon as the violence begins, it's important to report it to a law enforcement agency and take the position, 'I will not be battered anymore.'"

—Judge Sandra Townes

Dr. Nathan Hare, a clinical psychologist and sociologist in private practice in San Francisco, sees common traits among men who batter women. He says while abusive men are found in all races and socioeconomic groups, most Black male abusers are jealous, insecure and are attempting to imitate the

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Judge Sandra Townes, who says women should take legal steps to end their abuse, often recommends counseling for male abusers.

BATTERED WOMEN *Continued*

classic "street pimp," playing a "mind game" with the women by showing a loving and warm side to sustain interest—then inflicting pain. Other abusive men are imitating their fathers or their mothers' boyfriends and convince themselves that women expect abuse. "These men see their manhood as their ability to control women who are out of control," says Dr. Hare, who adds that many male abusers have been victimized themselves. "Others are sociopaths, men who have no sense of right and wrong."

Dr. Hare says men can learn how to control their violence toward women by redefining their manhood. "Many men feel that they must win every confrontation and if the woman does not submit, it's a rejection of their manhood," says Dr. Hare. "These men set out to win every battle; but they lose the war because they haven't learned how to be strong enough to be weak sometimes."

Due to alcoholism, low self-esteem, a lack of ethnic pride and a sense of helplessness in supporting their families, Black men have been reported as being more likely to be abusive toward Black women, says psychiatrist

"These men see their manhood as their ability to control women who are out of control."

—Dr. Nathan Hare

Dr. Carl Bell in *The State of Black America 1990*, published by the National Urban League. Dr. Bell, who bases his findings on work he has done at Chicago's Community Mental Health Council, also concludes Black husbands are more likely than Black women, White men or White women to be killed by a spouse who is acting in self-defense.

Instead of fighting with her abuser when he became violent, Renee Sibley, 29, decided to flee her apartment with her three children to avoid his attacks. Sibley, a resident of Chicago, says she repeatedly and unsuccessfully complained to police about the beatings. But the police, she says, did nothing, and when they left, her abuser returned and gave her another beating for calling the police. Sibley escaped and is now at a hidden shelter for battered women and their children. There, Sibley is looking for a new job and an apartment.

City Court Judge Sandra Townes, who handles domestic violence cases in Syracuse, N.Y., says women should take legal steps to end the violence. "As soon as the violence begins, it's important to report it to a law enforcement agency and take the position, 'I will not be battered anymore,'" says Judge Townes, who sometimes offers abusers counseling as an option to imprisonment. "If a batterer is forced to face the fact that domestic violence is a crime, he will begin to see it that way."

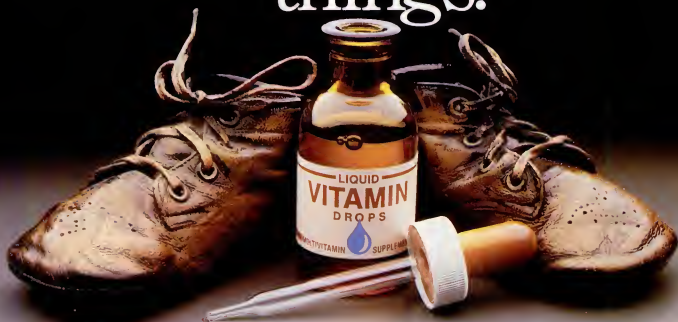
The rewards—and the risks—of facing the problem of domestic abuse are considerable. Take, for example, the last chapter of Vickii Coffey's ordeal. Three years after leaving her ex-husband, Vickii was on a train heading for the University of Illinois At Chicago, where she was earning a degree in criminal justice. As she thought about how the degree would enable her to better support her two children, she saw her ex-husband sitting a few seats away. Vickii decided to say hello, and at first, the conversation was polite. She gave him an update on how their children had grown and how she had provided for them over the years. But Vickii says he became upset when he saw how well she was doing and started belittling her again.

To his surprise, Vickii objected to his remarks and loudly demanded her long overdue respect. As the crowded train sped along its tracks, and passengers cheered her on, Vickii told him she didn't intend to be mistreated anymore.

"When I got off that train, I felt like people were celebrating my independence, and I was too," recalls Coffey, who speaks of the liberating experience often. "I knew at that point, it was all over. I would never let anyone abuse me again."

For more information about domestic violence or for help, please call the National Domestic Violence's toll-free hotline: 1-800-333-SAFE.

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At a family reunion in 1989, Katherine Jackson (seated center, yellow jacket) and her husband Joseph are surrounded by seven of their nine children, including Janet and Michael who flank their parents, and 11 of their grandchildren. Of the famous Jackson siblings, only Marlon and LaToya did not attend the reunion. LaToya (at right), whose nude spread in *Playboy* magazine and threats to write a tell-all book have shocked and disappointed her family, is estranged from her parents and siblings.

LATOYA nude in *Playboy*? I was shocked when I heard the rumor. My daughter may have been different from her eight brothers and sisters in some ways—she was the moodiest of my kids, for example—but in terms of her dress and manners, she'd been so conservative that she'd once dropped a friend who had begun wearing low-cut tops and skirts with slits in them. "She looks disgusting, like a hooker," LaToya remarked at the time. "I don't want any part of her."

But the longer I thought about the *Playboy* rumor, the more I feared that

it was true. The LaToya I saw in early 1989 was not the LaToya I thought I knew.

I couldn't help but recall her 1988 engagement at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City, when she danced for the first time ever in a sexy, suggestive way. Watching her from the audience, I was surprised and, I admit, a little taken aback.

"Jack told me that I had to change my image if I want to make it in the business," LaToya said when I questioned her about her new show.

"Jack" was Jack Gordon, her smooth-

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Mother of Jackson Family Tells All

Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Michael, Janet and LaToya

By Katherine Jackson*



talking manager. Her transformation had begun at the same time that he entered her life in 1987 with an offer for her to host a music video show that he had in the works. At the time LaToya was a confirmed homebody and mama's girl...

She was the kind of little girl who a grandmother would love... When you'd clean her up, LaToya would sit on the couch like a little lady...

Janet by contrast, was a tomboy. By the age of 2 she had the nickname "squirrel" because she loved to climb on the furniture and on the boys' bunkbeds...

Janet had been on the plump side for





Jack Gordon (at left with LaToya) did more than take over LaToya's career when he became her manager, Katherine Jackson says. He moved LaToya far from her family "so he could become the dominating influence in her life," Mrs. Jackson says. Yet, she says her relationship with her two superstar children, Janet and Michael (below), is as warm and loving as ever. Still, she gently chides Janet for "dressing like a tomboy," and she wishes that Michael, a former Jehovah's Witness, would return to the faith.

on the scene, showering LaToya with flowers and gifts.

Gordon begged my husband, Joe, LaToya's manager, to allow him to co-manage her; he claimed that he had ideas for how to revitalize her stalled recording career. He kept pestering Joe until Joe finally asked LaToya, "Is this what you want?" She said it was, so her father agreed to share management responsibilities with Gordon.

The next thing I knew, Gordon had my homebody of a daughter traveling the world. No sooner would they return from business in Japan than she'd announce, "Oh, I have a photo shoot to do in Austria," and she and Gordon would be on the next flight out of Los Angeles. While a part of me was happy that she was getting out into the world at long last and meeting new people, her turnabout was so sudden and dramatic that it left me confused.

It wasn't until later, when I saw Jack Gordon for what he was . . . that I understood his strategy in booking LaToya in far-flung corners of the globe. He was attempting to distance my naive, trusting daughter from her family, literally and figuratively, so that he could become the dominating influence in her life.

The public learned just how successful Gordon had been in tearing LaToya away from the family when, in March of 1988, *People* magazine reported that LaToya had moved to New York City with Gordon and cut her professional ties with Joe. "Jack's a salesman," LaToya was quoted as saying. "He throws a good pitch and he delivers. Anyway he's doing better than my father." Adding a sensational touch was Jack Gordon's own parting "pitch" to Joe: "I love Joe like poison."

Even though LaToya continued to talk to me almost daily on the telephone, our relationship deteriorated also. It seemed like LaToya had been taking lessons in the Big Lie from Gordon.

I had raised my children to always tell the truth, so I was disappointed in her for indignantly denying to me that she had decided to write a competing, "tell-all" book about the Jackson family, even after I heard that Gordon had taken her around from publisher to publisher in New York.

"No, mother, I'm not doing a book; I don't know how these rumors get started," she said again a few weeks later, after I learned that she had signed a book deal for more money than my son Michael had received for his autobiography, *Moonwalk*.



JACKSON FAMILY *Continued*

years. Michael, who can be a merciless teaser, had nicknamed her "Dunk"—for donkey.

I had a hard time getting Janet to wear dresses to kindergarten; she always wanted to wear jeans. To this day, she dresses like a tomboy. She'll show up at the house in army boots, blue jeans with patches in them, an oversized T-shirt and her hair stuffed in a cap.



"Janet," I'll say, "wear some earrings or put on some lipstick. People are going to mistake you for a guy . . ."

[Jack] Gordon's music video show never materialized, but he remained

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In happier times (above), the Jackson sisters (l. to r.)—Janet, Rebbie and LaToya—form a loving portrait with their mother. In the mid 1970s (right), Katherine Jackson began encouraging her daughters (clockwise from top)—LaToya, Rebbie and Janet—to try performing. “I didn’t like the idea of some of my kids making a lot of money while the others weren’t making anything,” she says.



JACKSON FAMILY *Continued*

This exchange was repeated several more times after I was informed of “ugly family secrets” that Jack Gordon had circulated, including the Biggest Lie of them all: that LaToya had been molested by Joe when she was 8 years old. When I confronted Gordon about this outrageous charge he claimed that Rebbie, not LaToya, had told him.

“That’s not true!” Rebbie gasped when I checked with her. Michael was furious. “Mother,” he exclaimed, “how can he lie like that!” The obvious answer: so Jack Gordon could create interest in LaToya’s book, and make more money for himself.

LaToya never did admit to me that she was writing a book. I had to read about it in a newspaper in early 1989. “Michael’s book is nice but very light,” she was quoted as saying. “There will be a lot of things in my book that weren’t in his.”

LaToya denied to me that she had disrobed for a Playboy photographer as emphatically as she had denied that she was writing a book. I’m sad to say that, once again, I learned the truth from the media. In her interviews promoting her nude spread, LaToya defended her actions: “I have to live my life for LaToya and not for my family.”

I was personally so embarrassed that there were moments when I said to myself, “I wish I was on another planet.” I felt like cringing when I went out in public, afraid that someone would recognize me and ask me about LaToya.

Shortly after the Playboy issue with her face on the cover hit the newsstands, LaToya appeared on “Donahue.”

“My parents laid down certain rules, and one of those rules, of course, was you were not to leave home unless you were married,” she claimed. She

didn’t mention the fact that our “rule” was never enforced, and that Michael, Marlon, Randy and Janet had moved out before her as single people.

Needless to say, rescuing my daughter from Gordon had been the family’s aim ever since she had moved to New York with him. But nothing I nor her brothers and sisters could say could persuade her to return home to us.

Mixed in with my rage at Jack Gordon was a feeling of guilt. “Maybe I sheltered my children too much,” I’ve thought many times since, “and not educated them enough about the sharks out there waiting to take advantage of them. . . .”

Even as the media was covering LaToya’s rebellion, it was still feasting on rumors about Michael’s private life, reports of Jackson “sibling jealousy” and tales about how Joe and I are alienated from most of our kids.

“What a sorry family these Jacksons

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Rebbie and Katherine Jackson (above) ventured back to the family's former home in Gary, Ind., in 1987 to look over the old neighborhood and reminisce with old friends. At left, Mrs. Jackson and former neighbor, Marie Gunn, share a laugh. "Being treated differently by old friends and neighbors was only one of the adjustments that the boys and Joe and I had to make after the Jackson Five became famous," she says.

JACKSON FAMILY *Continued*

have become," I imagine people are saying today. "They couldn't handle their rags-to-riches success." If I depended on the press for all of my information on my family, I'd come to the same conclusion.

But I'm able to see our story with a perspective that is lacking in an *Entertainment Tonight* sound bite, or an error-filled article in one of the tabloids.

For the record, Michael doesn't own and has never slept in a hyperbaric chamber. He lay down in one once, just to see what it felt like, during a visit to the Michael Jackson Burn Center. A photographer took his picture, and the picture got out.

As for the Elephant Man's bones, I

have no idea whether or not [Frank] Dileo [Michael's former manager] made an attempt on Michael's behalf to buy them. If he did so, he did so in jest. And if by some miracle the London medical center that owns the bones agreed to sell them, Michael knows I wouldn't let him in the house with them.

The most tired rumor of all was the rumor that Michael was gay.

All I can say is, Michael is not gay. First of all, the Bible speaks against homosexuality, and he's very religious. Secondly, he intends to settle down and get married one day. We've talked about it. And he will.

I wish he did have that special someone to share his life with right now; his

life would be richer. I think that, deep down, he does, too.

When Michael was younger he joked that "when the love bug bites me that's who I'm going to marry." By 1989 he was telling me, "When I marry a woman she's going to have a lot of money herself. That's the only way I'll know for sure that she's not marrying me for my money."

And yet, Michael seems happy. Even though he knows that he will never be able to live a "normal" life, he seems comfortable with his fame. I believe that when he's good and ready to get married, he'll do it, despite the inevitable press uproar.

While I firmly believe that a good marriage promotes happiness, the surest path to inner peace and fulfillment, I believe, is through religion. This is why I also wish that my children will draw closer to Jehovah.

I'm not worried about Rebbie. As she says, "The most important thing in my life is my relationship with the Creator, Jehovah God."

Dee Dee, Tito's wife, has also shown a strong interest in studying.

But Randy and Janet attend Kingdom Hall only occasionally, and Jermaine, Jackie, Tito and LaToya not at all, even though LaToya was baptized a Witness several years ago. Marlon and Carol attend a Catholic church.

Then there is Michael's unique situation: In 1987, he left the Jehovah's Witnesses.

There was strong opposition to his "Thriller" video on the part of some Witnesses. Perhaps the controversy figured into his decision to leave.

But I don't know that for a fact because I didn't talk to him about what he'd done. I couldn't. Witnesses do not discuss spiritual matters with a person who has disassociated himself from the Witnesses, including family members.

But I want to stress that, contrary to published reports, I was not required to "shun" my son. Our relationship is as loving today as it was when he was a Witness. I just can't ask him, "Why, Michael?"

Two more wishes:

I wish for a reunited Jacksons. I wish that Michael and Marlon would consider rejoining the group, if only on a part-time basis. For old-time's sake. For my sake.

And I dream of a reunited Jackson family.

As much as LaToya hurt the family... I long for her reconciliation with us. The Jackson family is not whole without her.

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WHAT do you do about a boyfriend who is jealous of past relationships? My boyfriend and I have been together for seven months. I am 23 and he is 22. He has told me that he's bothered by my many former intimate relationships. He always wants to discuss my past, and every time we do, we end up in unpleasant arguments. I tell him over and over that I love him and not to worry about my past. But he keeps worrying about it and he gets angry. We talk of getting married some day, but this situation worries me. How long will this jealousy go on? How come he is so bothered by my past relationships? C.R.W., Seattle, Wash.

Few men, if any, are crazy about the idea that their girlfriends or wives had a life before they met. But most men are smart and mature enough to leave the past alone and concentrate on the present and the future. Your boyfriend lacks both, smarts and maturity. He is bothered by your past because he's insecure and worries that he might not measure up in one way or another if compared with men from your past. His jealousy is likely to continue, or even get worse, until he grows up to a point where he can see himself as others see him—an insecure, immature kid. Until then you should avoid marriage to him like the plague.

P.S. Telling your jealous boyfriend about your "many former intimate relationships" was not the smartest thing you ever did.

I AM a 38-year-old woman with five children. My problem is whether to keep a man who respects me, or to listen to a 20-year-old headstrong daughter of mine who says that this man wants nothing out of life and I deserve a better man. She says that he does not want a job making a living to support himself, and that all he wants is a job mowing lawns, like the one he has now, and with which he cannot support himself. I have tried to find jobs for him that suit him, but he does not pursue them. We have been dating for several years and he has asked me to marry him. Please help. C.D., Rocky Mount, N.C.

If everything your daughter says about your boyfriend is true, it's easy to see why she thinks that he isn't much of a catch and wants you to dump him. But YOU, not your daughter, should decide whether you deserve a better man than the one you've got. If YOU are unhappy because your boyfriend doesn't have a job and no particular interest in finding one, YOU should speak up. Tell him to make up his mind and start looking for a job—not a chore—or to start looking for another girlfriend. If, on the other hand, all you want is a man who respects you (whatever that means) although he hasn't got an ounce of ambition and can hardly support himself, by all means keep him. But remember, people who don't expect much don't get much; it's that simple. In any event, before agreeing to marry this man, ask yourself why—in the name of common sense—you need an additional dependent when you already have five children to worry about.

UNTIL about a year ago, I thought I was settled down and satisfied with my life. I am a married registered nurse with two sons. My husband has a great job, is a good father and a good provider, but he's the pits in the bedroom and I have no social life. My problem is, I've been involved with a young man for about three years now and just recently I discovered that I'm very much in love with him. My lover is terrific in bed and romances me out of my mind. Although he doesn't have any financial security to offer me, he is a hard worker and has potential. I'm willing to give up my marriage and risk losing my children so that we can be together. What is your opinion? L.S. Memphis, Tenn.

My opinion is that having been romanced out of your mind once too often, you have been left with impaired ability to reason. If you think that by abandoning your family and joining your young lover you have assured yourself around-the-clock passion and never-ending bliss, you have another think coming. I'll bet that once you turn your part-time lover into a full-time husband or companion and saddle him with the drudgery and responsibilities that come with the territory, he's going to feel and act a great deal less romantic than he does right now. When that happens, your abandoned husband—even with all of his shortcomings in the bedroom—will begin to look to you more and more like the 1,000-karat jewel that he seems to be.

I AM a 24-year-old published poet whose interests range from ancient African philosophies to modern Black self-development. I do not eat animal flesh, except seafood, drink distilled water and do knuckle push-ups. At the moment I am soliciting support for a national Black college poetry contest concept which I submitted to a periodical. Additionally, I am also awaiting notification from a four-year scholarship essay contest. I actively correspond with a broad number of African-American organizations for information/networking purposes. Presently, I am trying to secure an agent to represent my work and I am considering a foray into entertainment via rap music. Simply stated, is my methodology viable toward obtaining the goals I have scientifically and spiritually devoted myself to attaining? N.N.E., Savannah, Ga.

Your methodology, which boils down to having lots of irons in the fire, is basically sound, but no guarantee for success. In other words, whether or not the many contacts and interests you are pursuing will help further your career as a poet depends entirely on how productive they turn out to be. Also, since I don't know whether any of the great poets or Kool Moe Dee ever did knuckle push-ups, drank distilled water and refrained from eating meat, I can't say whether doing so stimulates the flow of creative juices. So, coming back to your "simply stated" question, "Is my methodology viable toward obtaining the goals I have scientifically and spiritually devoted myself to attaining?" I have to confess that your guess is as good as mine.

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'Trapped In The Body Of A White Woman'

*Oregon teacher
reveals pain of 'living
Black and looking
White'*

By Kathleen Cross

The author, a Portland, Ore., teacher and drug counselor, says "much has been written recently concerning the tendency of biracial children to deny or downplay being Black. How about printing the story of a biracial woman who reveres her African-American heritage... even if she has to fight for the 'right' to claim it." This is her story.

I WAS 14 years old, and the only White face in the room. It was a house party. You know . . . young people wall-to-wall, blue light glowing in the corner, heavy breathing, fierce dancing, and Wild Cherry's latest hit



At Portland State University, Kathleen Cross teaches course on "Drugs and the Black Community." Mother of three also teaches drug and alcohol prevention for Self-Enhancement, Inc., a Portland nonprofit organization serving inner-city children.

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Father and mother (top), James H. Kelly and Dawn M. Adams, gave Cross a strong sense of identity. Above, author is pictured (arms crossed) with cousins and sisters Kerry (3rd fr. l.) and Candy (2nd fr. l.) and brothers Todd (2nd row, r.) and Eugene (2nd row, 2nd fr. r.). She married Charles Cross in 1979. They are now separated.

TRAPPED *Continued*

record, "Play That Funky Music, White Boy," blaring from the speakers mounted in each corner of the ceiling. I was tearin' up the "Body Language" (a dance of the time), mindin' my own business, when a tall 20ish-looking brother in a brown leather coat shoved me roughly with his elbow and sang harshly in my ear: "Play that funky music, WHITE GIRL." The bitterness of his tone stung me, and I searched his eyes trying to find a clue to why I had provoked such anger in him. I was 14 at the time and could not understand why it was that when I raised my eyebrows

and smiled apologetically for whatever it was that I had done wrong, he glared coldly at me and turned his back. Inwardly I winced, finally realizing that his anger had been provoked by the color of my skin.

I wondered how I could tell him that I was half Black, that I had lived in the Black community all my life, that I grew up on Marvin Gaye, the Temptations, Blue Magic and Teddy Pendergrass. How could I let him know that I was raised on greens and neck-bones and sweet potato pie, that I was a "mean" domino player from watching my big brothers slam bones across the table on Friday evenings, that my daddy taught me the Phoenician alphabet when I was 10 so that I would respect the legacy of ancient Egypt, and that my grandmother still told stories about her mother's life as a slave . . . I was sure he'd feel differently if he knew that the light-skinned brother with the 10-inch natural standing by the door was my big brother, and that the high school party which he had crashed was taking place in *my* living room. It wasn't the first time, and it certainly wouldn't be the last, that I wanted to apologize, not so much for being White, but for not being Black enough.

I have never known what to call myself. My caramel-colored, blue-eyed brother is, by his own and most other's definition, an African-American, as is my brown-skinned sister. But I have always been referred to as "mixed," a rather innocuous term which allows me to embrace my African-American-ness without appearing to be at odds



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Self-reliant. Cross cuts grass at her Portland home. Her children are (counterclockwise) Khalia, 9; Akira, 5, and Melody, 7. She is co-director of the Portland Baha'i Youth Workshop, a youth organization serving the Portland community through drama and dance.



TRAPPED *Continued*

with the European in me. The reality is that although 50 percent of my genetic makeup is European, little of my White heritage is reflected in my mannerisms or my social surroundings. And although I am no more White than my siblings, when I refer to myself as African-American I am often accused of denying my White heritage, being emotionally and socially confused, or referred to by some as a "Wanna-be."

For some reason, contrary to genetic odds, the only pigment God saw fit to give me was in the freckles which he sprinkled across my face. My skin, my hair, my features are White, but my experience is not. Neither is it wholly Black. All my life I have been a Black woman "becoming." It is a journey in which I have been fortunate to be led by strong Black role models who expanded my limited American standards of beauty, culture and dignity, and exposed me to the truth about Africa's relationship to the past, present and future of the planet. I have had rich experiences and relationships which will forever commit me to my African-American heritage. But I also recognize that there is a huge gap between my experience of living Black and looking White, and the everyday experiences of Black Americans. It is this gap in experience, which no amount of my "immersion" in the Black community will ever fill, that has led many to question my "right" to consider myself African-American.

Although my skin color has often shielded me from being the target of White racism, it has also created for me one of the most painful of human conditions, a lifetime of being misperceived and initially rejected by my own people. This is not an indictment; it is simply a testimonial to the remnants of White racism that have divided, and continue to divide, the descendants of Africa in America.

African-Americans have shaped my self-concept since my childhood, and I have loved and been loved in the Black community all my life. So when I am rejected by some of my African-American brothers and sisters, when my African-American husband is written off for "selling out" to marry me, and when my African-American children are referred to as "mixed," I find myself wanting to apologize again for not being Black enough. I am a Black woman "becoming" who can never really arrive, and there is pain and isolation in belonging to a family which often does not recognize my membership.

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BLACK WOMEN IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Three trailblazers make history at the highest level of American power

By Laura B. Randolph

IN THE nation's capital, *true* power means more than impressive perks or positions, or friends in high places. In Washington, what distinguishes the truly powerful is access to and influence with the president and the first lady.

By that standard, Condoleezza Rice, Anna Perez and Kristin Clark Taylor are a royal flush of clout: together they hold three of the most influential jobs in the White House. Rice, the former director of Soviet and Eastern European Affairs for the National Security Council, was recently named special assistant to the president for National Security Affairs. Perez, press secretary to Barbara Bush, represents the first lady to the nation and the world. And for the overwhelming majority of the press, Taylor, the White House director of media relations, decides who will and who won't get to talk with the chief executive.

Young (thirtysomething), beautiful (look at them), and intimidatingly smart, they spend their days at the epicenter of political power where the number of Black women in the power jobs is *infinitesimal* and top jobs are still very much a White male preserve. The first Black women ever to hold these posts, they are new and illuminating voices that speak the language of Washington power. In this ex-



First Black women to hold three key White House posts (l. to r.), Anna Perez, Kristin Clark Taylor and Condoleezza Rice are key players in the Washington drama. Perez is press secretary to Barbara Bush, and Taylor is director of media relations for President Bush. Rice, who speaks Russian fluently, is special assistant to the president for National Security Affairs.



Only woman at table of power during critical meeting on national security, Rice monitors the conversation. At left, she greets Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in Russian during the recent superpower summit.

clusive report, they tell what it's like to have it, wield it, command it.

Condoleezza Rice, 35, Director Of Soviet And Eastern European Affairs, The National Security Council

CONDOLEEZZA RICE uncoils her long, perfectly contoured legs and steps out onto the balcony of her combination-locked office. The morning sunlight spills across her face as she gazes across the White House lawn at the Washington Monument. Just a few weeks ago, she was boarding a helicopter there and lifting off with Soviet President Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa. "Every now and then you just get incredible moments like that," muses Rice about the historic, sometimes awe-inspiring, nature of her work as the president's top Sovietologist.

As the chopper whisked her and the Gorbachevs to Andrews Air Force Base, the highest-ranking Black woman in the National Security Council chatted with Moscow's first couple—in Russian. "He was really quite easy to talk to," says Rice of Gorbachev, as if she'd been conversing with a favorite uncle instead of one of



A close advisor to Barbara Bush, Anna Perez is the first Black to be a chief spokesperson for a White House occupant.

BLACK WOMEN *Continued*

the most powerful figures in the world.

To Rice, it probably *was* easy. After all, she's used to being in the company of international superpowers. Since she joined the National Security Council at the personal request of NSC Adviser Brent Scowcroft, it has not been unusual for Rice to find herself sitting around a bargaining table, in far and distant worlds, discussing everything from nuclear weapons to the revolutions rolling through the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Now that the latest Bush-Gorbachev summit in Washington is history, Rice has turned her attention to yet another historic agreement: German reunification. "Since March, I've been to Germany eight times," sighs Rice, whose job it is to analyze and explain the epoch-making revolutions that are reshaping much of the world.

Pretty heady stuff for a woman whose high school guidance counselor told her she wasn't college material. "I had not done very well on the preliminary SAT exam for two reasons: I wasn't well and I am just not a very good test taker," recalls Dr. Rice who, at 19, graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Denver and earned a master's and a doctorate from Notre Dame.

Thanks to parents who, even in segregated Birmingham where she grew up, "always taught me I could do and be whatever I wanted," Rice never gave her counselor's advice a second thought. Nonetheless, its racial undertones, she admits, did give her pause. "I remember thinking that the odd thing about it was that she had not bothered to check my record. I was a straight-A student in all advanced courses. I was excelling in Latin. I was

a figure skater and a piano student. That none of that occurred to her I think was a subtle form of racism. It was the problem of low expectations [for Blacks]."

If only her guidance counselor could see her now. Tall, gorgeous, with electric brown eyes, Condoleezza blew the Soviets away last spring when she went to Moscow and spoke on nuclear strategy—in Russian. In December, at the Bush-Gorbachev Malta summit on the sea, Rice was separated from Bush at the bargaining table only by Secretary of State James Baker. And, at this summer's historic superpower summit in Washington, Rice was one of its most critical architects and players. Not only did she provide background and analysis in daily meetings, she was one of only a handful of senior aides who attended the exclusive White House State and Camp David dinners, where she was seated next to the Soviet Union's deputy chief of the General Staff. "I found that particularly enjoyable because I got to talk with him about the new book I'm writing," she says. Her completed book, *Uncertain Allegiance: The Soviet Union and the Czechoslovakia Army*, was required pre-summit reading. (Rice also speaks Czech.)

Despite the magnitude of her accomplishments, they weren't what put Rice—a classically trained pianist who switched her college major from music to political science—"when I realized I was good but would never be great"—in the national spotlight. Unfortunately, it was a nasty—many believe racially motivated—incident that occurred when she was seeing the Gorbachevs off at San Francisco's airport.

Though she was wearing her White House I.D., a Secret Service agent ordered her to get behind security barricades. When she protested, identifying herself as a member of the White House party, the agent shoved her. The next day the incident, and speculation that the agent's motives were racist, were national headlines. Despite a barrage of calls from the press, Rice refused to comment on the incident—until now.

"I haven't commented on it, and the reason I haven't is because I was really taken aback at the press it received," she says. "To my mind, it was a relatively minor incident and I quickly reported it to the head of the Secret Service who was appalled and promised to look into it. . . . I sort of chalked it up to a field agent who isn't involved in the activities that often and was overly

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On the way to an interview on Black Entertainment Television, the president and Kristin Clark Taylor are joined by David Demarest (c.), the White House communications director, and Roger Porter, the president's domestic and economic policy advisor.

BLACK WOMEN *Continued*

zealous. What I didn't feel from him was any racial hostility . . . I didn't write it off to race or gender . . . but just that he was rude, which I thought was unnecessary, and he pushed me, which I thought was unnecessary . . . I'm certain appropriate action will be taken."

However it's handled, it isn't the first time Rice has run up against disbelieving eyes. "It usually comes in the line of 'How'd you end up doing this?'" says Rice of people's reaction to her position.

While others search for ways to explain her, the never-married Rice spends 14-hour days ("I start at 7:30 and routinely leave between 8:30 and 9:00") and weekends ("This Saturday I'm flying to Germany for a meeting"), working so she can explain the latest, often historic, international event to the president. "It's truly an amazing time to be working in the White House," says Rice.

Anna Perez, 37, Press Secretary To The First Lady

SWEETSatisfaction filled Anna Perez as she settled into her seat on the first lady's Air Force jet. Even after more than a year as Barbara Bush's chief spokesperson, Perez

couldn't help marveling at the rare and remarkable joys of her position.

Perez has good reason to be a little wide-eyed about her job of representing the first lady's views to the press, the country, the world. There was a time when she dreamed not of having a White House office, but a rooftop over her family's head. She may be firmly ensconced in the most prestigious address in the world, but Perez knows well the view from the other side.

When she was in the fifth grade, Perez came home from school and found her family and all their belongings sitting on the street. It took her a few minutes to realize what had happened, but then she understood. Her mother, two older brothers and two younger sisters had been evicted. They were homeless.

"We were evicted from a lot of places we lived in," recalls the New York-born Perez of the days immediately following her parents' break-up. "Things got very rough . . . my mom had to split up the family—my brothers and sisters went to live in Dallas with relatives; I lived with my fifth-grade teacher for a while and my mom stayed at a hotel for the homeless."

Now that she's settled in the West Wing office that once belonged to Rosalynn Carter, the sweet irony of her

journey is in no way lost on her. "I was sitting next to [pop singer] Paul Simon who has a wonderful program with medical vans that go around to homeless hotels in New York City, and it just struck me that here I am sitting next to Paul Simon at a benefit and he's helping the people who live in the same shelter that my family used to live in. Talk about coming full circle . . ." she says surveying her domain and resting her gaze on a photo of her mom with a smiling Barbara Bush.

Looking back on those days now that she's a mother (son Anthony is 12, daughter Candace is 9 and stepdaughter Niambi, 17), Perez says she can't imagine how her mom managed to keep up their spirits in the face of such adversity. "No matter how bad things got, my mother made it clear that this was an aberration. We were not defined by our financial situation. We were defined by our ability to overcome it."

Not even Perez expected she would overcome it quite so dramatically. After leaving home at 18, she put herself through Hunter College by working as a governess, but dropped out after her junior year "because I was bored and wasn't getting that much out of it." She spent the next five years as a United Airlines flight attendant.

Restless again, she moved to California to work as a marketing specialist and met her husband, Ted Sims, on a blind date. The newlyweds moved to Tacoma, Wash., and bought a weekly newspaper, but sold it when Sims was recruited for his current position as chief engineer for Howard University's radio station.

In Washington, D.C., Perez spent eight years working on Capitol Hill for prominent Washington Republicans—as a legislative aide and acting spokesperson for Sen. Slade Gorton, as press secretary for Congressman John Miller—and regional press secretary for the Bush '88 campaign at the Republican National Convention.

When she heard the new first lady was looking for a press secretary, Perez did something that is never—never—done in official Washington: she asked for the job. And she asked a number of big-name politicians to ask on her behalf. "My mom always said the quickest way not to get what you want in the world is not to ask for it," she says of her unorthodox strategy.

Twenty years later, Perez is giving her own kids that same advice. "One of the best things about this job is when my kids come to see mom at the office,

they're wandering around the *White House*. That means they won't be intimidated by symbols of power. They will know—I mean really *know*—anything is possible and if there are limitations on their life, it will be those they place on themselves."

Kristin Clark Taylor, 31, Director Of Media Relations, The White House

KRISTIN CLARK TAYLOR? Mention her name to journalists and they will nod with recognition and tell you her nickname: "Power Baby." That's what she's called in Washington although, at 31, Taylor is too diplomatic to brag about her fast-track success.

At 23, she was part of the USA Today start-up team and the only Black woman on the paper's founding editorial board. At 27, she was the senior writer in then-Vice President Bush's press office where she handled all domestic and foreign policy questions from the White House Press Corps.

But *the* job came two years later when a newly elected President Bush personally asked her to come with him to the White House as his director of media relations.

"If I'm sitting in the Oval Office and the president is talking to me or, even

more amazing, I'm talking to him and he's listening and writing down notes, there's something still in the back of my head that says, 'Is this really happening?' Is the president of the United States really listening to you and taking in what you're saying?" says the Detroit-born, Michigan State University graduate. "There are still moments when it's awe-inspiring."

Although Marlin Fitzwater, the president's press secretary, handles the White House Press Corps, Taylor's office handles everybody else who wants to interview the president.

This means, among other things, that she briefs the president on every detail of a press meeting, from a variety of issues he will be asked about to who will be seated beside him. It was Taylor, in fact, who proposed and coordinated the president's recent White House luncheon with Black publishers, though she knew it was risky. "It really could have been explosive because it had been so many years since Black media had the opportunity to come into the White House," she says. "Anything could have happened and I told the president that before we went into the room. Happily, in my years with the president, it was one of

the most productive meetings we've ever had."

As Taylor would be the first to tell you, meetings don't always go so smoothly, and when they don't, it's her neck that's on the line. "It's hard sometimes to work in a place where there is *no* room for error," she concedes, explaining why she routinely works 12-hour days and briefs the president on *everything* "from the issues, to the kind of questions he might get, to who is going to be there."

The youngest of seven children, Taylor is a veteran crisis manager. And besides, she says, her pressure-cooker life is more than offset when she goes home to her husband, Lonny, the chief of staff for a Republican congressman, and their two children, 3-year-old Lonny Jr. and 1-year-old Mary.

And except for those few hold-your-breath moments—like the time Bush was giving Lonny Jr. a ride on his shoulders and little Lonny threw up all over his head—Taylor says life at the top couldn't be sweeter. "I'm truly blessed—professionally and personally—and I never forget that," she says glancing at the now infamous photo of Lonny Jr. riding high on the president's shoulders.

GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS.



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MEATLESS MAGIC



By Charlotte Lyons

Photography by James Mitchell

THIS fall, a bright and plentiful harvest of vegetables makes it easy to prepare a variety of healthy, nutritious meals. Right in our local food markets and produce stands, there is a cornucopia of squash, peppers, tomatoes and onions—savory, aromatic vegetables that add delicious flavor to dishes prepared without meat.

We offer mouth-watering vegetarian cuisine that takes full advantage of a

good crop of vegetables. Our combination of Ratatouille and Linguine, Vegetable Lasagna, or Three-Cheese Pasta will make you hungry just reading the recipes. All-time favorites, spaghetti, chili, omelets and pizza take on brand-new character when chock-full of garden vegetables.

Who says a vegetable dish has to be boring? Not when you can create Meatless Magic!

Pasta lovers will appreciate the creamy flavor of Three-Cheese Pasta (far left). Versatile bell peppers (below) take on a new face as Ricotta Cheese-Stuffed Peppers, while Macaroni and Cheese remains a favorite dish.



THREE-CHEESE PASTA

- 8 ounces lowfat ricotta cheese
- 1 cup crumbled bleu cheese
- 1 3-ounce package cream cheese
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped parsley
- 4 teaspoons dried basil, crushed
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt, optional
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon garlic powder

- 12 ounces thin spaghetti
- 2 10-ounce packages frozen broccoli spears or $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds fresh broccoli, cooked
- 2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup fresh mushrooms, halved

Combine ricotta, bleu and cream cheeses in small mixing bowl. Beat on high speed of mixer until smooth. Add milk; mix well. Stir in parsley and seasoning; set aside. Cook pasta according

to package directions; drain well. To serve, place broccoli on one-third of large heated platter. Toss pasta with half of cheese sauce. Spoon pasta onto center of platter. Toss tomatoes and mushrooms together and place on remaining third of platter. Drizzle remaining sauce over vegetables. Toss all together. Serve immediately, with freshly grated Parmesan, if desired.

Yields 6 servings



Mac 'n' Cheese

- 1 (7-oz.) pkg. Creamettes Elbow Macaroni,
 2 cups uncooked
 2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
 2 Tbsp. flour
 1 tsp. salt
 2 c. milk
 1 c. each shredded Colby, Cheddar and Monterey Jack cheeses
 1/4 c. grated Parmesan cheese
 2 tsp. parsley flakes
 2 Tbsp. buttered bread crumbs
- Prepare Creamettes® Elbow Macaroni as pkg. directs. Drain.
 In med. saucepan, melt butter. Stir in flour and salt.
 Blend in milk. Cook and stir till thickened. Mix cheeses
 together, reserve 1/4 cup. Add remaining cheese to sauce;
 stir till melted. Mix in macaroni and parsley. Pour into
 2-qt. casserole. Top with reserved cheese and bread crumbs.
 Bake at 350° for 25 min. Garnish.
- Serves 4-6



The macaroni and cheese recipe
 that gets the Dewey kids home on time
 calls for Creamettes.



America's having a love affair with Creamettes.



Two appetizing dishes that stand alone as vegetarian entrees are Ratatouille and Linguine (foreground) and Western Beans and Rice.

RICOTTA CHEESE-STUFFED PEPPERS

- 4 medium-size green, yellow and red bell peppers, halved, cored and seeded
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- ½ cup sliced green onions
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ cup fine dry bread crumbs
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 3 tablespoons sour cream
- ¼ teaspoon dried basil, crushed
- ¼ teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- ½ teaspoon salt, optional
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Tomato sauce or spaghetti sauce, optional

Heat oven to 400°. Bring about 2 inches of lightly salted water to a boil in a 1-quart saucepan over medium heat. Add green peppers and cook uncovered for 5 minutes; drain.

Heat oil in 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Add green onions and garlic; cook uncovered for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside.

Combine ricotta cheese, Parmesan, bread crumbs, eggs, sour cream, basil, oregano, parsley, salt and pepper in medium mixing bowl. Stir in onion mixture. Place green pepper halves close together in buttered 10-inch pie

plate and spoon cheese mixture into each half. Add ¼ cup water to pie plate and bake uncovered for 20 minutes or until filling is set. Serve with tomato or spaghetti sauce if desired.

Yields 4 servings

RATATOUILLE AND LINGUINE

- 1 medium eggplant, peeled and cubed
- 2 small zucchini, cubed
- 2 small yellow squash, cubed
- 1 medium green or red bell pepper, diced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 6 to 8 plum tomatoes, diced
- 2 tablespoons vegetable or olive oil
- 2 to 3 cloves garlic, minced

- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
- 1 15-ounce jar spaghetti sauce
- Cooked linguine, drained
- Grated Parmesan cheese

Cook eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash, green pepper, onion, tomatoes in vegetable oil with garlic, basil and oregano until tender, about 10 minutes. Stir in spaghetti sauce and continue cooking over low heat until vegetables are done, about 10 minutes. Serve over cooked linguine. Sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese if desired.

Yields 6 to 8 servings

WESTERN BEANS AND RICE

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1 8-ounce can tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
- 3 cups drained cooked or canned pinto beans*
- 3 cups hot, cooked brown rice

Cook onions and celery in oil in large skillet until tender. Stir in tomato sauce, water, seasonings and beans. Heat thoroughly. Serve over hot rice.

Yields 6 servings

*Or any type of beans.

VEGETABLE LASAGNA

- 1/2 pound lasagna noodles, uncooked
- 6 medium fresh tomatoes, cored and cut up
- 1 cup finely shredded carrots
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 1 teaspoon salt, optional
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon fennel seed, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 16-ounce container ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2 10-ounce packages frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well-drained
- 3 cups chopped zucchini
- 2 cups fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan

Prepare lasagna noodles according to package directions; drain. Chop tomatoes in food processor or blender. Combine tomatoes, carrots, onion and seasoning in large saucepan. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; simmer 20 minutes. Spread 3/4 cup tomato sauce evenly in

13x9-inch baking dish. Blend ricotta and parsley in small bowl. Layer with one-third of each ingredient: lasagna, remaining tomato sauce, spinach, zucchini, mushrooms, ricotta mixture, mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. Repeat layers. Cover. Bake in a 350° oven until hot, about 45 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before cutting.

Yields 8 servings

MACARONI AND CHEESE

- 1 7-ounce package elbow macaroni (about 2 cups uncooked)
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup finely shredded American or cheddar cheese
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, optional

Prepare elbow macaroni according to package directions; drain. Melt butter in medium saucepan. Stir in flour, salt and pepper. Blend in milk. Cook, stirring constantly, until thickened and bubbly. Combine macaroni and sauce mixture; mix well. Stir in cheese. Pour into greased 2-quart casserole. Dot with butter. Bake in a 350° oven until hot, 20 to 25 minutes. If desired, broil until lightly browned before serving.

Yields 4 servings

CHEESY VEGETABLE OMELET

- 4 eggs, separated
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 teaspoon salt, optional
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 tablespoon butter

Beat egg whites with water, salt and pepper in small mixing bowl until stiff but not dry. In another bowl, beat egg yolks until very thick and lemon-colored. Fold into egg whites.

Heat oven to 325°. Heat butter (over flame) in 10-inch skillet with oven-proof handle until just hot enough to sizzle a drop of water. Pour omelet mixture into skillet; level surface gently. Reduce heat. Cook slowly until puffy and light brown on bottom, about 5 minutes (lift omelet at edge to judge color).

Place in oven; bake 12 to 15 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Tip skillet and loosen omelet by slipping pancake turner or spatula

MORTON® SALT "GIVE US A HINT" CONTEST



OFFICIAL RULES

1. To enter, hand-print your name, address and zip code on the official entry form or 3" x 5" paper. On a separate 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper describe how salt can be used in a helpful way in clean-ups or in various other useful ways in your household (include garden, garage, yard). Do not include cooking, beauty or health-related suggestions. Print or type your entry in 50 words or less. All entries must be contestants' original creations, and not published previously in any medium.

2. Separate as often as you wish, but each entry must be mailed separately and include the original UPC symbol from the Morton® 26-oz. Table Salt label. Mail to: Morton Salt "Give Us A Hint" Contest, P.O. Box 1229, Skokie, IL 60076-8229. Residents of Arizona, Florida, Maryland and Wisconsin need not include UPC symbol.

3. Contest starts 9/1/90, ends 1/15/91. All entries must be received by midnight, 1/15/91. Morton International, Inc. is not responsible for lost, late, illegible or postage-due mail. Entries become the property of Morton International, Inc. and none will be returned.

4. Eligible entries will be judged by Product Exposure, Inc., an independent judging organization whose decisions shall be final. Entries will be based on the following criteria:

Usefulness/Application	25%
Creativity	25%
Originality	25%
Ease of Procedure	15%
Significant Use of Salt	15%

Winners will be notified by mail by 2/28/91.

5. Prizes. All prizes will be awarded provided sufficient qualifying entries are received. In case of any tie, entry with highest score for Usefulness/Application will be the winner, except that Wisconsin residents will be awarded duplicate prizes.

Grand Prize: \$15,000 cash
1,000 First Prizes: Set of 4 Morton® Salt Girl Mugs, Sugar & Creamer Value: \$11.90/set
Total prize value: \$26,900

6. Taxes are winners' responsibility. Limit one prize per household. No prize transfers, redemptions and no cash substitutions for the First Prize. If a prize is not generally available at programs end, a substitution of equal or greater value will be made at the choice of Morton International, Inc. By entering the contest, winners agree to the use of their names, likenesses and entry suggestions in any form for publicity, advertising and/or trade purposes by Morton International, Inc., its affiliates and agencies, without additional compensation. Winners acknowledge that Morton International, Inc. is the owner of the suggestions with all accompanying rights and may alter or amend them to meet Morton International, Inc. standards.

7. Contest is open to U.S.A. residents 18 years or older. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Employees of Morton International, Inc., its affiliates, advertising, promotion and publicity agencies, judges and their immediate families living in the same household are not eligible. Affidavit of eligibility and release from liability may be required. Failure to comply with this condition within 21 days of notification may result in forfeiture of the prize. All federal, state, local laws and regulations apply. For the name of the Grand Prize Winner, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Morton Salt "Give Us A Hint" Winner, P.O. Box 1229, Skokie, IL 60076-8229. Sponsor: Morton Salt, Morton International, Inc., Chicago, IL 60606-1555.

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when it rains it pours



Beans and Rice offers savory down-home flavor and heartiness. This tasty combo makes a good side dish or an economical main course that easily feeds a family of six. Your favorite bean can be substituted for kidneys, and brown rice can be used instead of white, converted rice.

underneath. Fold omelet in half, being careful not to break it. Slip onto heated platter. Serve immediately.

CHEESY VEGETABLES: Cut $\frac{1}{2}$ cup each carrot, zucchini and onion into long, thin strips. Cook vegetables in 2 tablespoons butter or margarine with $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon thyme leaves until tender. Sprinkle one half of cooked omelet with $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of shredded cheddar cheese; spoon cooked vegetables on top of cheese. Gently fold the other half over the filling.

Yields 1 omelet

BEANS AND RICE

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped onion
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped green pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon dried thyme, crushed
- 1 $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ounce can dark red beans, drained
- 1 cup converted brand rice
- 3 cups water
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cook onion, green pepper, garlic and

thyme in vegetable oil in 2-quart saucepan until vegetables are tender. Stir in drained beans, rice, water, salt and pepper. Heat to boiling; reduce heat and simmer for 20 to 25 minutes until rice is done and all liquid is absorbed. Let beans and rice stand 15 minutes before serving.

Yields 5 to 6 servings

SWISS CHEESE STRATA

- 8 cups cubed French bread
- 2 cups shredded Swiss cheese
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup thinly sliced green onion
- 3 cups milk
- 4 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Dash cayenne pepper

Arrange bread cubes in buttered 2-quart shallow baking dish; sprinkle with shredded Swiss cheese and green onions. Combine remaining ingredients in medium bowl; pour over bread mixture. Cover; refrigerate overnight. Uncover; bake at 350° for 30 minutes or until set.

Yields 6 servings



BRRRRR.



BEEEEEP.

SPAGHETTI PIZZA

- ½ pound spaghetti, uncooked
- ½ cup milk
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 15-ounce container prepared spaghetti sauce
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Prepare spaghetti according to package directions; drain. Blend milk, egg, and salt in medium bowl. Add spaghetti; mix well. Spread evenly onto greased 15x10-inch baking sheet. Spoon spaghetti sauce evenly over spaghetti mixture. Add topping(s) from list below. Top with Mozzarella cheese. Bake in a 350° oven until spaghetti mixture is set, about 40 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before cutting. Refrigerate leftovers.

Yields 8 to 10 servings

TOPPINGS (Any Combination)

- 1 4-ounce can sliced mushrooms, drained or 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 small tomato, seeded and chopped
- 1 small green pepper, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped or thinly

- sliced
- ½ cup sliced or chopped pitted olives

BLACK BEAN CHILI

- 1½ cups cooked black beans
- ½ cup chopped green pepper
- ½ cup chopped onions
- ½ cup diced carrots
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 bay leaf
- ¼ teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1½ cups vegetable juice or tomato juice

Sauté green pepper, onion and carrot in small amount of oil, over medium heat, until partially cooked. Pour vegetables in saucepan, add other ingredients. Simmer, uncovered, 20 to 25 minutes. Remove bay leaf. Serve with chopped onions.

Yields 4 servings

VEGETABLE TACO

- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- ¾ cup sliced green onion
- ½ cup chopped green pepper
- 1½ cups cooked and drained corn

- 1 cup drained kidney beans
- 3 tablespoons chili sauce
- ½ teaspoon chili powder
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1½ cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 12 prepared taco shells, heated
- 2 cups chopped tomatoes
- 2 cups shredded lettuce
- 1½ cups shredded cheddar cheese

Heat oven to 350°. Melt butter in 2-quart saucepan. Cook onions and green pepper until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in corn, beans, chili sauce and seasoning. Heat over medium heat, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in Monterey Jack cheese. Fill each taco shell with cheese-vegetable mixture. Place on cookie sheet. Bake 5 to 7 minutes or until hot. Remove from oven and top with tomatoes, lettuce and cheddar cheese. Serve immediately.

Yields 6 servings

Nutritional tips:

When cutting down on your meat consumption, add beans and rice together for a good protein substitute. Other grains like bulgur, oats and barley may be substituted for rice. Remember, once meat is eliminated from the diet, a daily vitamin and mineral supplement is needed.



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Getting Ahead

On The Corporate Level



Yves Saint Laurent's two-piece, glen-plaid suit with blouse is belted. Note bold accessories.



Left: Rykiel borrows the man's shirt-and-tie look in this four-piece colorful pantsuit ensemble. It is feminized by drop earrings and a fedora hat.



Right: Two-piece suede suit with short tapered skirt, belt, silk-bowed blouse is by Ungaro. Note gloves and hat.



Above: Softness in a three-piece wool suit with décolleté silk blouse and trench coat, by Rykiel. Note accessories.

Photography by Ingrid Hammon

By Eunice W. Johnson

MANY people believe that in order to get ahead in the corporate world they must attach themselves to the coattail of a sponsor. Perhaps that's one route, but being well-groomed and properly dressed can also help you open those corporate doors. You not only make heads turn, but you exemplify good taste, elegance and intelligence.

From these pages we hope you will get an idea of the latest ready-to-wear fashions from the fall/winter '90/'91 Paris collections.

With a little ingenuity, many of these looks can be achieved by re-vamping your own wardrobe and mixing a jacket, coat or skirt with a colorful blouse or sweater. If you have a suit that's a few years old, you might want to take the large shoulder pads out and replace them with smaller ones; with blouses you

may want to remove the pads altogether. The look this year is more of a softer, natural shoulder line.

By being well-dressed and efficient, you will impress your boss and possibly become indispensable. You will also be a joy to behold, and the corporate ladder will not be difficult for you to climb.

Many of the fashions highlighted here will be showcased in the EBONY Fashion Fair when the show comes to your city.



Above: Melting cloth notched-lapel coat is worn over one-piece tunic dress with a six-button front closing. By Christian Dior. Note gloves and earrings.



Above: A wool gabardine swing-back coat with puff sleeves and large buttons, worn over slim wool dress with knit turtleneck. By Olivier Lapidus.



Left: Ideas to match your own wardrobe from this plaid coat, skirt and colorful sweater, decorated with flower pin at neck. By Beretta.

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Corporate Party Time



Above: Heads will turn at corporate parties if you don this off-the-shoulder, slim-fitting dress with yards and yards of tulle framing the neckline. By Dior.



Above, left: To brighten up his pantsuit duo, Valentino adds a quilt-lined green coat to one, and a red coat to the other.

Far left: Silk crepe cocktail dress is softened with silk décolleté collar at neckline and loose panels down front. By Lapidus.

Left: Christian La Croix designs a two-piece, satin, deep dolman-sleeve blouse with white collar and cuffs, worn with a panne velvet-draped skirt. Note belt with large buckle.



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SELLING SUCCESS

Les Brown says You, too, can “have more and achieve more”

THE soft sounds of a Freddie Hubbard tape fill the room as the assembled adults sit anxiously awaiting Les Brown. They are eager but not quite sure what to expect from a man whose ability to articulate on just about anything has literally moved people and made him wealthy.

Known in professional circles as “The Motivator,” Brown greets each participant warmly, putting the group at ease. What follows is an eight-hour session that at times takes on the aura of a Baptist revival. “I have a vision for a better future,” he says as the group repeats each word earnestly. “And that future starts with me.”

Brown, a 42-year-old Miami native who never attended college, has literally talked his way into the good life. Once a door-to-door salesman, a nightclub emcee, a radio personality, a community activist and an Ohio state representative, Brown has found his true calling in a \$210 billion cottage industry—motivational speaking.

Now based in Detroit, Brown spends almost every waking minute motivating someone to become a bet-



The power of the spoken word has made Les Brown one of the nation's most renowned and dynamic motivational speakers. He has literally talked his way into the good life by devising numerous “how-to” seminars, tapes and workshops (left) for corporate clients and individuals.



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Archie O'Leary,
Corporate Business Systems

Val O'Donnell,
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Lowell Thomas,
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Before her diet, Lorena Michelle Jenkins of Atlanta weighed 255 pounds. The extra weight, she says, was unattractive and unhealthy. Today (below), Jenkins, 22, weighs 157 pounds and says she lost the extra pounds by developing her own weight-loss plan. It took six months to lose the 98 pounds, she says.

Bank Clerk Loses 98 Pounds, Gains Tons Of Confidence

Once high on calories, Atlanta woman is now high on energy and happiness

AFTER looking at herself in a mirror and seeing the outline of a plump unattractive body buried beneath yards of dowdy clothing, Lorena Michelle Jenkins of Atlanta concluded that it was time for a change. Determined to improve her appearance, Jenkins, who weighed 255 pounds, made a New Year's resolution on Jan. 1: She was going to lose weight.

Six months later and 98 pounds lighter, Jenkins, 22, says she not only felt better about her appearance, she also was proud because she developed her weight-loss program herself. She says deciding to lose weight was the best decision she ever made. "When I



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Fall '90 Itinerary (Partial Listing)

CITY	PLACE OF SHOW	DATE	TIME
Springfield, MA	<i>Chez Josef</i>	Tues., 10/2	8:00 p.m.
Poughkeepsie, NY	<i>Poughkeepsie High School</i>	Wed., 10/3	8:00 p.m.
Tarrytown, NY	<i>Watchester Marriott</i>	Thurs., 10/4	8:00 p.m.
Hempstead, NY	<i>Holbro University Sports Facilities</i>	Fri., 10/5	8:00 p.m.
Newark, NJ	<i>Symphony Hall</i>	Sat., 10/6	8:00 p.m.
New York, NY	<i>New York Hilton Hotel</i>	Sun., 10/7	3&6 p.m.
Englewood, NJ	<i>John Horne Center</i>	Tues., 10/9	8:00 p.m.
Willingboro, NJ	<i>Willingboro High School</i>	Wed., 10/10	8:00 p.m.
Staten Island, NY	<i>Columbus Regency</i>	Thurs., 10/11	8:00 p.m.
Brooklyn, NY	<i>Walt Whitman/Brooklyn College</i>	Fri., 10/12	8:00 p.m.
Philadelphia, PA	<i>Academy of Music</i>	Sat., 10/13	2:00 p.m.
Baltimore, MD	<i>Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall</i>	Sun., 10/14	5:00 p.m.
Dover, DE	<i>Education & Humanities Theater</i>	Tues., 10/16	8:00 p.m.
Princess Anne, MD	<i>Delaware State Col.</i>	Wed., 10/17	8:00 p.m.
	<i>Ella Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts/UMES</i>		
Hampton, VA	<i>Hampton Coliseum</i>	Thurs., 10/18	8:00 p.m.
Norfolk, VA	<i>Chrysler Hall</i>	Fri., 10/19	8:00 p.m.
Richmond, VA	<i>Midway Auditorium</i>	Sat., 10/20	8:00 p.m.
Washington, DC	<i>John F. Kennedy Ctr. for Performing Arts</i>	Sun., 10/21	3&6 p.m.
Silver Spring, MD	<i>Indian Springs Country Club</i>	Mon., 10/22	8:00 p.m.
Syracuse, NY	<i>John F. Mulroy Civic Center</i>	Wed., 10/24	8:00 p.m.
Rochester, NY	<i>Rochester Riverside Convention Center</i>	Thurs., 10/25	8:00 p.m.
Buffalo, NY	<i>Klaimans Music Hall</i>	Fri., 10/26	8:00 p.m.
Youngstown, OH	<i>Stambaugh Auditorium</i>	Sat., 10/27	8:00 p.m.
Cleveland, OH	<i>Music Hall/Cleveland Convention Center</i>	Sun., 10/28	8:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh, PA	<i>Heinz Hall</i>	Mon., 10/29	8:00 p.m.
Charleston, WV	<i>Capital Plaza Music Hall</i>	Wed., 10/31	8:00 p.m.
Rossmore, VA	<i>William Fleming High School</i>	Thurs., 11/1	8:00 p.m.
Winston-Salem, NC	<i>M. C. Bortan Convention Center</i>	Fri., 11/2	8:00 p.m.
Charlotte, NC	<i>Ovens Auditorium</i>	Sun., 11/4	8:00 p.m.
Durham, NC	<i>Omni Durham & Convention Center</i>	Mon., 11/5	8:00 p.m.
Greensboro, NC	<i>Greensboro Auditorium</i>	Tues., 11/6	8:00 p.m.
Asheville, NC	<i>YMI Cultural Center, Inc. Auditorium</i>	Wed., 11/7	8:00 p.m.
Knoxville, TN	<i>Knoxville Civic Aud Coliseum</i>	Thurs., 11/8	8:00 p.m.
Cincinnati, OH	<i>Music Hall</i>	Fri., 11/9	8:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor, MI	<i>Michigan Theatre</i>	Sat., 11/10	8:00 p.m.
Detroit, MI	<i>Clubland State Theatre</i>	Sun., 11/11	3&6 p.m.
Seaside, MI	<i>Seaside Civic Center</i>	Tues., 11/13	8:00 p.m.
Battle Creek, MI	<i>Steele Theatre</i>	Wed., 11/14	8:00 p.m.
Flint, MI	<i>Whiting Auditorium</i>	Thurs., 11/15	8:00 p.m.
Lansing, MI	<i>Whitman Center for Performing Arts/MSU</i>	Fri., 11/16	8:00 p.m.
Gary, IN	<i>West Side High School</i>	Sat., 11/17	8:00 p.m.
Chicago, IL	<i>Arca Crown Theatre</i>	Sun., 11/18	3&6 p.m.



Jogging (above, left) helps Jenkins relax, keep trim and feel good about herself. Eating fish, salads and vegetables (above, right) also helps her maintain a trim figure and improves her health. Socializing with new friends (below) is one of the rewards that come with an improved appearance and new positive outlook, she says.

BANK CLERK *Continued*

looked at myself in the mirror, what I saw wasn't sexy," recalls Jenkins, who once squeezed into a size 22. "That's when I decided to go on the diet. It was something I had to do for me."

Jenkins, who lives with her parents, gives a lot of the credit for her weight loss to her mother and father, Catherine and Homer Jenkins. "My parents are the people who motivated me the most by saying, 'Trust in God, and most of all, believe in yourself,'" she says. "I'm glad I listened to them because by believing in myself and having them on my side, it was possible to conquer what seemed impossible."

The Atlanta bank clerk developed her personal diet by asking friends for

advice, reading weight-loss stories and researching the effect different foods have on the body and health. As part of her personal weight-loss plan, she now eats only two meals a day, drinks at least eight glasses of water daily and stays away from fried foods. She also jogs two miles each day and plays tennis to keep the unwanted pounds off. "I count every calorie," says Jenkins, who recorded her weight loss in a diary. "I guess you can call me a calorie counter."

Jenkins, who now has a 157-pound curvaceous figure, often sees friends who don't recognize her because of her smaller size. Many friends with weight problems compliment her and ask how

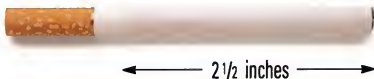
they can lose weight, too. "I tell them, it isn't what you eat, it's *how much* you eat," she says. "When you eat a disciplined and nutritious diet, not only will you lose weight, but you will also feel healthier."

Unlike the days when she had to buy large, gaudy clothing designed for overweight women, Jenkins now selects clothes that are "revealing and sexy" because she feels her new body and attitude deserve a glamorous look. "When I used to buy clothes, all the attractive things were for smaller people and the clothing for larger women was expensive. I guess I was paying for all that fabric," laughs Jenkins, who now wears size 12 clothing. "Now, I don't cover up my body as much and am more open with myself because I'm not ashamed of how my body looks."

Since she lost weight, Jenkins has made many new friends. Much of her new appeal, she says, is due to her new-found confidence and improved appearance. "Many people avoided me when I was overweight," she says. "I guess my lack of confidence showed. Now, a lot of people are attracted to me and I get lots of attention from men. I guess they can tell I feel second to none."



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The Cosby Show begins its new season with the introduction of Erika Alexander (inset), who joins the Huxtable clan as a cousin from a tough section of Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant area. At right, James Earl Jones (r.) returns to TV as an investigator in ABC's *Gabriel's Fire*. Jones, who plays the title role, co-stars with Laila Robins.



Who's New & Who's Back

BLACKS AND THE NEW TV SEASON

Fall lineup features Black talent on both sides of the camera

By Douglas C. Lyons

CAN a kid from a tough Philadelphia neighborhood adjust to California's good life and win ratings for NBC's *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*? Will James Earl Jones find huge audiences as a private investigator on ABC's *Gabriel's Fire*? Will NBC's *The Cosby Show* continue to dominate the ratings?

The new TV season is upon us. Five new shows—two on ABC, one on CBS, one on NBC and one on Fox Broadcasting—feature Blacks in prominent roles. There is also a sharp increase in the number of independently produced programs featuring Blacks.

Black talent is also growing behind the camera. Thomas Carter (*Equal Justice*), Bill Cosby (*The Cosby Show* and *Grand*), Arsenio Hall (*The Arsenio Hall Show* and *The Party Machine With Nia Peeples*), Keenen Ivory Wayans (*In Living Color*), Quincy Jones (*The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* and *The Jesse Jackson Show*) and Oprah Winfrey (*The Oprah Winfrey Show* and several prime-time specials for ABC) hold the top TV post of executive producers for their shows.

All in all, the new TV lineup offers plenty of entertainment.

NBC's *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* is one of five new shows to prominently

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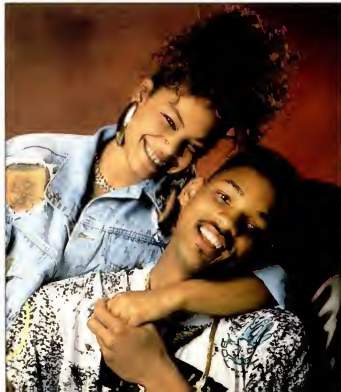
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Staying "fresh" is the watchword for two NBC shows this season. The network's popular *A Different World* will feature Sinbad taking on the role of a counselor this season. At right, rapper Wil Smith (r.) and Tatyana M. Ali make their TV debut in *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, a sitcom starring Smith as a kid from a tough Philadelphia neighborhood who moves in with wealthy relatives in Southern California.



Blacks & TV Season *Continued*

showcase the talents of Black stars. The show, which airs on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. (EST), features rap artist Wil Smith as a kid from a tough Philadelphia neighborhood who is sent to live with his wealthy relatives in Los Angeles' posh Bel Air community.

ABC's offers *Gabriel's Fire*, an hour-long drama set for Thursdays at 9 p.m. (EST) and starring James Earl Jones as a private investigator. *Married People*, a sitcom airing on Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m. (EST), is another new show, starring Ray Aranha and Barbara Montgomery as an elderly couple who rent their New York brownstone to two younger couples.

Ossie Davis returns to TV on CBS' new show, *Evening Shade*, a comedy about life in small-town America. The show airs on Fridays at 8 p.m. (EST). Fox Broadcasting unveils the fifth new show, *True Colors*, a comedy about an interracial couple. It stars Frankie Faison, Claude Brooks and Adam Jeffries and airs on Sundays at 7 p.m. (EST).

The new syndicated programs include *The Jesse Jackson Show*, a talk show hosted by the civil rights leader, and *Big Break*, a musical talent contest with singer Natalie Cole.

Other new "must-see" shows include the return of Sidney Poitier to television as Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in the ABC miniseries, *Separate But Equal*, and in *The Boys*, a pilot series created by Debbie Allen as a mid-season replacement.

Blacks are also cast in ABC's *Cop Rock*, NBC's *Law and Order* and *Hull High*, and CBS' *WIOU*.

Of all the returning shows, NBC's *The Cosby Show*, on Thursdays at 8 p.m. (EST), will be under greater scrutiny this season as it faces Fox's most popular show, *The Simpsons*. To meet the challenge, *The Cosby Show* introduces Erika Alexander in the role of Pam, a relative from a poor community in Brooklyn who moves in and adjusts to the affluence of the Huxtable household.

The resurgence of African-American pride on Black college campuses will be seen on *A Different World*, which airs on Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. (EST) and stars Jasmine Guy, Kadeem Hardison, Sinbad and Dawnn Lewis.

Whoopi Goldberg returns to CBS' *Bagdad Cafe*, at 8:30 p.m. (EST) on Fridays, and Howard Rollins co-stars in NBC's *In the Heat of the Night*, at 9 p.m. (EST) on Tuesdays.

Other returning prime-time shows

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COMING SOON ON VIDEO CASSETTE AND LASERDISC.

Keenen Ivory Wayans IN LIVING COLOR

KEENEN IVORY WAYANS always knew that Black people would come to his rescue.

He had just finished *I'm Gonna Get You Sucka*, only to learn that his first film would be released on a meager promotion budget during the competitive Christmas movie season.

It was no contest. The movie was a box office hit, attracting TV executives who literally begged Wayans to develop a network show. The result: *In Living Color*. "I knew they were trying to bury the film," he recalls. "I told them: 'Studios have made 500, 600 pictures this year. None of them Black. Imagine if all those pictures had been Black, and now comes one White picture? Everybody'll be coming, just because they haven't seen themselves on screen all year.'"

It was a rational assessment from a 32-year-old comedian who takes the business of humor quite seriously.

Born in New York, Wayans grew up in the South Bronx. By age 6, he knew he wanted to be a comedian, but decided in high school to study engineering at Tuskegee Institute. Still, he couldn't shake his preoccupation with comedy. He learned "stand-up" by telling other students stories about New York, and he eventually quit school during his senior year when a friend told him about New York's Improv comedy club.

In 1980, he began working the New York comedy clubs and soon met another young comic, Robert Townsend. Six years later, the two created *Hollywood Shuffle*. That same year, Wayans co-wrote and co-produced the concert film, *Eddie Murphy Raw*. Then came *I'm Gonna Get You Sucka* and Holly-

wood celebrity status.

As executive producer of *In Living Color*, Wayans calls the shots on a hit show that features the talents of brothers, Damon and Shawn, and sister, Kim. He directs a band of writers who take no prisoners. The show has received a lot of praise, but skits on Arsenio Hall and "Men at Work," sketches featuring two gay art critics, have drawn criticism. "Everybody gets their share of negativity," he shrugs. "It's frustrating because you're damned if you do and damned if you don't. And you sit there saying, 'I'm really trying. . . .'"

Work consumes most of Wayans' time. Besides *In Living Color*, there is an upcoming film for Universal Pictures and a pilot for an ABC-TV sitcom based on *I'm Gonna Get You Sucka*.

Wayans lives in Los Angeles but shuns the Hollywood social scene, preferring to work out, play chess, be with his family or to renovate his new house. He is single—and apparently available—after recently breaking off a steady relationship.

But, the business of Hollywood is never far from his mind. "You cannot make an epic [film] with no money," Wayans says. "What can you make with no money? A silly little comedy that's character-driven, and that, hopefully, will be successful so you can get some more money to do your next film."



Keenen Ivory Wayans' comedic genius and determination have finally thrust him among Hollywood's elite. He and the cast of *In Living Color* (below) are reaping the benefits that come with one of TV's most popular shows.



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CBS' *Bagdad Cafe* (top, left), starring Whoopi Goldberg and Jean Stapleton, returns on Fridays to go against ABC's hit sitcom, *Family Matters* (above). At left, Spike Lee and Debbie Allen host a PBS *Great Performances* segment in October while Joe Morton (below, c.) returns as chief prosecutor Michael James on ABC's *Equal Justice*, a mid-season replacement.



Blacks & TV Season *Continued*
featuring Black talent include ABC's *Family Matters*, at 8:30 p.m. (EST) on Fridays and *Doogie Howser, M.D.*, at 9 p.m. on Wednesdays; CBS' *Designing Women*, at 9:30 p.m. (EST) on Mondays; Fox's *In Living Color*, at 8 p.m. (EST) on Sundays; NBC's *L.A. Law* at 10 p.m. (EST) on Thursdays; *Matlock*, at 8 p.m. (EST) on Tuesdays and *Night Court*, at 9 p.m. (EST) on Fridays.

PBS starts its new season with an October 5 debut of *Great Performances' Spike & Co.: Do It A Cappella*, a musical featuring world class a cappella artists hosted by filmmaker Spike Lee and Debbie Allen.

On cable, HBO airs *The Josephine Baker Story*, starring Lynn Whitfield; *Criminal Justice*, starring Forest Whitaker, and new episodes of *First & Ten*, starring O.J. Simpson.

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Syndicated and independently produced shows are booming on TV this season with the return of *The Ebony/Jet Showcase* (top, left), HBO's *The Josephine Baker Story*, starring Lynn Whitfield (above), and *The Jesse Jackson Show* (left). Quincy Jones (r.) is one of the show's executive producers, and the variety of guests will include such performers as Kurtis Blow (l.).

Blacks & TV Season *Continued*

Blacks are also featured in other syndicated programs that rival network offerings. For example, *The Ebony/Jet Showcase* enters its sixth season this fall. Co-hosts Deborah Crable and Darryl Dennard provide interesting and informative interviews with some of today's most prominent celebrities, including Babyface, Bill Cosby and Natalie Cole.

Other syndicated shows featuring Blacks include *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Arsenio Hall Show*, *Red Hot & Cool*, starring Nancy Wilson, *Super Force*, with Larry B. Scott and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, featuring LeVar Burton and Michael Dorn.



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Since 1984 when Chrysler established the Special Supplier Program to increase the use of minority-owned firms, several key minority vendors have received the Quality Excellence Award and for over 20 years Chrysler has been doing business with minority financial institutions. In 1989 the number had reached 90 banks in 62 cities across the country.

Putting money into banks is not the only way Chrysler enriches minority communities. Through its charitable foundation, Chrysler assists organizations such as the NAACP, United Negro College Fund, National Urban League, Operation PUSH and many others.

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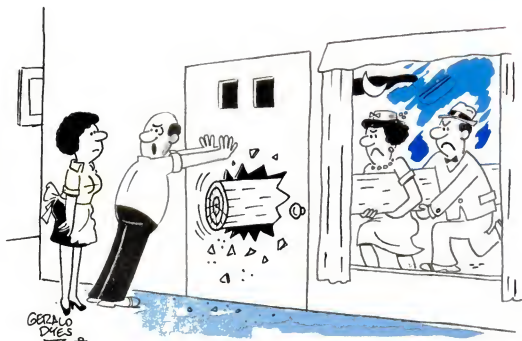
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SHOW BIZ BROTHERS

Show Off



Grammy-winning gospel artists The Winans, (above, l. to r.) Carvin, Ronald, Marvin and Michael, are among the groups of performing brothers who have helped usher in an era of similar fraternal teams. At left, Kevon and Melvin Edmonds, two-thirds of the rapidly rising group known as After 7, launched their full-time singing careers under the guidance of younger brother Kenny (Babyface) Edmonds and his partner Antonio (L.A.) Reid, one of the recording industry's most successful producing teams.

Groups of versatile and talented siblings are taking the entertainment industry by storm

THAT enduring entertainment industry tradition known as the brother act is back. In an unprecedented show of fraternal muscle, teams of brothers are assaulting the music charts and television airwaves and racking up multi-media success.

While these brothers are not exactly hogging the limelight, many are simultaneously making breakthroughs. In the past two years, groups like pop music's LeVert and The Boys, and The Winans of gospel music fame have helped usher in a diverse mix of brother acts, including the Harper



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SHOW BIZ BROTHERS *Continued*

brothers, Phillip and Winard, who lead one of the most critically acclaimed new jazz bands working today.

And, of course, there's television's most talked about writer/producer/actor Keenen Ivory Wayans, the mastermind behind *In Living Color*, Fox-TV's late season hit. The weekly variety show's ensemble cast features Wayans' younger brothers, Damon and Shawn, as well as their sister Kim.

Brothers are operating behind the scenes as well. Entertainers such as M.C. Hammer, the superstar rapper who has taken out the country by storm with his slickly produced videos and dazzling footwork, have turned their entire management teams over to competent family members. Hammer (né Kirk Burrell), 27, the president of his own burgeoning production company, is managed by his brother Louis Burrell, 30, vice president of the company and one of the star's most trusted advisors. "I'm always sure that my brother has my best interest at heart," Hammer says. "He's a very gifted and intelligent person, probably one of the best in the world at what he does.



The Neville Brothers, (above, l. to r.) Cyril, Art, Aaron and Charles, have been dubbed "the first family of music" in their native New Orleans. After more than 30 years of playing and singing on their own and with other bands, the brothers decided to join forces and voices in 1977. At left, superstar rapper M.C. Hammer (l.) has put control of much of his fiscal affairs in the hands of his brother and business manager Louis Burrell (r.). While Keenen Ivory Wayans (right), star of Fox-TV's late-season hit *In Living Color* has helped turn brother Damon (l.) and two other siblings into television stars by featuring them on the weekly variety show.



"That's why we make a good team."

Why the sudden rise in brotherly teamwork? "I think this is a period where Black people—particularly people in the same family—are reaching out more to help each other," says Kevon Edmonds, who is one-third of a rapidly rising singing trio that calls itself After 7. "Since talent tends to run in families it makes helping out a little easier."

After 7 was founded and developed with the kind of fraternal collaboration that is typical among today's hot

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JIGGLERS

THEY'RE A HANDFUL OF FUN.



Pop music stars LeVert —(left, l. to r.) Marc Gordon and brothers Sean and Gerald LeVert—have led an assault on the music charts by brother groups. Among the brother acts that are beginning to consistently break into the Top 10 are Tony Toni Tóné, lead by Raphael and Dwayne Wiggins (right), and Calloway (bottom), featuring Cino-Vincent and Reggie Calloway.



Cino-Vincent Calloway, the singing, songwriting and producing duo that just scored big with the hit single "I Wanna Be Rich." The Calloway brothers have worked together since the late 1970s when they were members of a jazz/fusion band that evolved into the funk/fusion band Midnight Star. In the mid-1980s they ventured into producing and tandem songwriting, churning out hits for artists such as Natalie Cole, Gladys Knight and LeVert. Along the way, they discovered that they were better suited to working as a twosome, without the distractions and conflicts of groupmates.

"With just us two, we can definitely concentrate on what we want to do," says Cino-Vincent, the younger of the pair (though they decline to reveal their ages). "By being brothers, and knowing each other as well as we do, we don't have to discuss things. We just feel our way through them."

The Calloway brothers, who live in side-by-side homes in Cincinnati (where they grew up), say they have a strangely intuitive connection that keeps them on the same wavelength, though sometimes things go amiss. "Usually when we leave our houses in the morning, we're wearing pretty much the same kind of thing, whether it's a business suit or casual clothes or whatever," says Reggie. "But if we leave and one of us is in a business suit and the other is in jogging clothes, we know our timing is off and it's probably not going to be a good day."

Not all of the brother groups find that living and working together is the



SHOW BIZ BROTHERS *Continued*

brother teams. The group is composed of Kevon, his brother Melvin Edmonds and Keith Mitchell, all Indianapolis natives. Their debut album, which spawned the chart-topping single "Ready or Not," was produced by the hit-making team of Kenny (Babyface) Edmonds, younger brother of Kevon and Melvin, and Antonio (L.A.) Reid, Keith Mitchell's cousin.

It was L.A. and Babyface who coaxed the group members out of Indianapolis—where each held day jobs while dabbling part-time in music—and down to Atlanta where the hot young producers have established a base. The working relationship is close and creative. The group members live together dormitory-style in an Atlanta apartment as they and their producers plot the course of *After 7's* career.

Being brothers is a plus in such a close and intense professional environment. "A lot of producers and artists get together for the very first time and they don't know each other," says Melvin. "It's a lot easier working with family. They know you. They know your personality, so they know what buttons to push at the right time to get the most out of you."

The bond between many of these show biz brothers can be almost symbiotic. Take, for example, Reggie and

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times difficult being the "baby brother" on the team. "When you're the youngest, it's hard at first to get over that I'm the big brother; listen to me' thing," he says. "So you have to deal with that until you can get the respect as an equal partner."

The Harpers share a love of jazz that provides them with a chemistry that enlivens their performances. "Because of the music, which was introduced to us at a very early age, and the fact that we know each other very well, something special happens when we play together," says Winard.

That same kind of onstage chemistry is shared by the Neville brothers, the Grammy-winning quartet that is enjoying "overnight success" after a 35-year struggle to crack the music industry's upper echelon. Actually, the brothers, who range in age from 41 to 52, have officially been a singing group for only 13 years. Prior to 1977, each had pursued careers as individuals and with other groups in their native New Orleans and other cities. But from the first time they blended their voices they knew they had something special.

"It's funny," says Charles Neville, 51, "we have some similar musical influences, but we have some very different ones as well—jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, gospel, Latin, Afro-Brazilian, reggae. But when you put us together, it's a very unique, very special blend. I think it's because our spirits blend as well."

Offstage, the Neville brothers are surrounded by a close-knit circle of wives and children, many of them budding entertainers. Each of the would-be performers has family support. "We're conspiring to build an economic base for the entire family," says Cyril Neville, 41.

Yet individual projects always take a back seat to family concerns and The Neville Brothers singing group. "We recognize that we've got a powerful thing together," says Aaron Neville, 49, whose "I Don't Know Much" duet with Linda Ronstadt won a Grammy this year. "The Neville Brothers is the main focus. I don't feel like I've made it unless all of us make it."

That same philosophy is held by a great many of the brothers putting their heads together to reach a common goal. Their feeling, essentially, is that in a cold world, family is what matters. "I've learned that your family really cares about you," says Damon Wayans. "People in the world don't really care about you. They care about what you do, and what you have."



Prodigious talent is abundantly on display among the brother groups. The Harper brothers (above), trumpeter Philip, 25, and drummer Winard, 28, have taken the jazz scene by storm with a band that is quickly becoming a New York institution. At left, the four Abdul Samad brothers, known as The Boys, have, in just two years, become one of the most popular attractions in the music business.

SHOW BIZ BROTHERS *Continued*
best arrangement. The Wiggins brothers, Dwayne and Raphael, two of the front men for the group Tony Toni Toné, maintain distinctly separate private lives. Dwayne, the older of the two, lives in Oakland, where the brothers grew up. Raphael lives in Sacramento. "I just wanted a change," says Raphael. "I had lived in Oakland all my life. I wanted to live someplace

else." Adds Dwayne, "We have different friends, some different interests. But when it comes to working together, this is the best working situation I've had."

There can be drawbacks to these sibling partnerships, however. Trumpeter Philip Harper, 25, who with drummer brother Winard, 28, heads one of the hottest bands on the contemporary jazz scene, says it is some-

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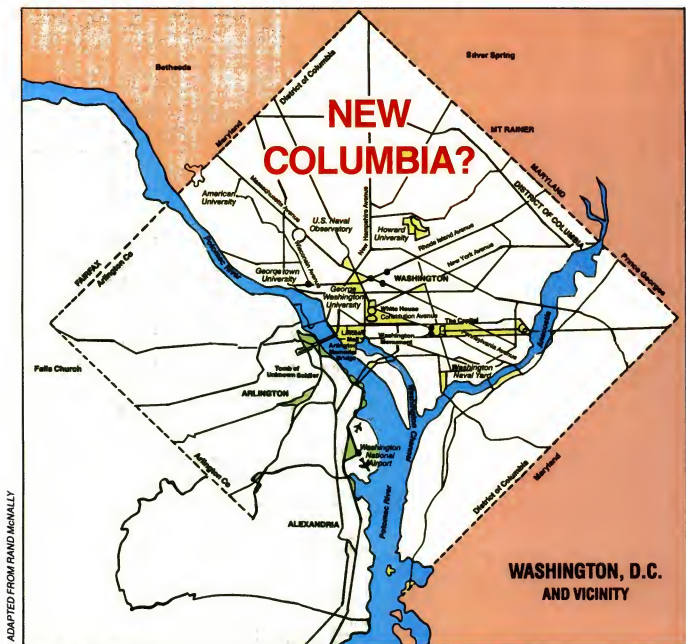
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AIM HIGH.



What D.C. Statehood Would



ADAPTED FROM RAND McNALLY

New state of New Columbia would cover the geographic area of the District of Columbia, excluding a federal enclave that will continue to be called Washington, and would contain more residents than four existing states—Alaska, Delaware, Vermont and Wyoming.

The District of Columbia has more residents than four states. The residents of the district pay more taxes than the residents of nine states, and they pay more taxes per capita than the residents of 49 states. More residents from D.C. died in Vietnam per capita than the residents from 47 states.

—Jesse Jackson

IT'S so ironic, political observers say, it's almost inconceivable: the United States of America is the only democratic nation on earth that denies the residents of its capital city representation in the national legislature.

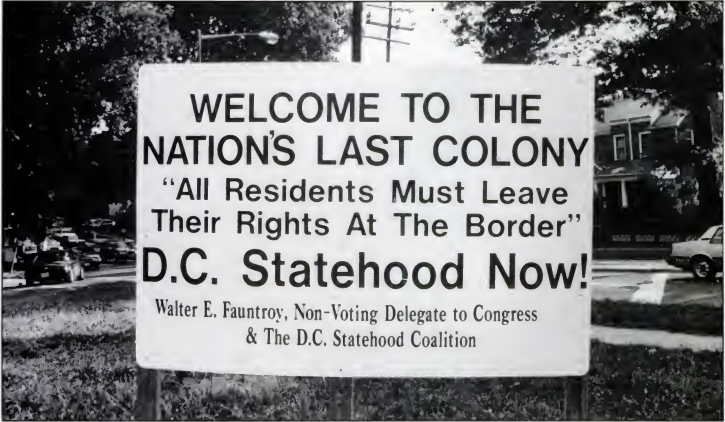
That means, among other things, that Washington, D.C., with a population larger than that of four states, has no representation in the U.S. Senate, none, and no voting right in the House of Representatives.

Why are district residents, who pay more federal taxes than the residents of nine states, denied the same rights

enjoyed by the citizens of every American state, no matter how small, no matter how poor? It's a simple answer, really, with a seemingly simple solution. Only states are entitled to full representation in Congress, and the District of Columbia is not a state. The solution? Make the district a state, as was done with Alaska and Hawaii in the 1950s.

It's simple, right? Wrong, say statehood supporters. The populations of Alaska and Hawaii are different from the district's in a fundamental way: they are not primarily Black. And that

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Walter E. Fauntroy, Non-Voting Delegate to Congress
& The D.C. Statehood Coalition

"Last Colony" signs have been posted at District of Columbia city lines by D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy, who has been fighting for statehood for some 25 years. He marched (below) for statehood with Martin Luther King Jr. A non-voting member of the House of Representatives, Fauntroy represents more tax-paying citizens than any other member of that body.

is a primary reason, say several analysts, that Washington will never become a state, if some top political powerbrokers have their way.

But why all the fuss over making the district a state? The fuss, insiders say, isn't really over statehood. It's over power. Major league *national* power. Full political equality for a state, with a 70 percent Black majority.

This is the bottom line, then: If the district becomes a state, it would be entitled to elect two senators—senators who would almost certainly be Black and Democratic. And when you talk about giving Black people that kind of power at that level, simple solutions become very complex, very fast.

"It is obvious that racism and political bigotry are what really block the way to statehood for the District of Columbia," nationally syndicated columnist Carl Rowan says. "When Hawaii was up for statehood, the opponents mostly whispered that there ought not be a state run mostly by Asians. Now the bigots are saying openly that statehood for the District of Columbia would produce the 'disaster' of two Black members of the U.S. Senate..."





Cosponsors of Senate bill that would make the district a state are Sen. Paul Simon (D.-Ill.) and Sen. Edward Kennedy (D.-Mass.). Kennedy says the problem with D.C. statehood is "the four toos": "The district . . . and its residents are too urban, too liberal, too Democratic and too Black."

D.C. STATEHOOD *Continued*

and Jesse Jackson probably would be one of them. Why should America have a Senate in which there is not a single Black voice . . . ? It is time we got national leaders . . . who will show the guts to stand against racism and . . . do for D.C. what others did for Hawaii and Alaska."

That jibes with the assessment of Sen. Edward Kennedy (D.-Mass.), who joined Sen. Paul Simon (D.-Ill.) in introducing a bill that would do exactly that. As Sen. Kennedy candidly pointed out, the *real* problem with district statehood is the four "toos": "The District of Columbia and its residents are too urban, too liberal, too Democratic and too Black."

Of course opponents don't actually come out and say this. To do so would be political suicide. But the buzz among insiders is that statehood opponents feel that giving Black folks the right to elect two senators and a voting member of the House, never mind another Black governor, would give *Black America* too much say in national policy-making.

And it isn't just politicians with a cause to advance who see it this way. Academicians who have studied the issue extensively say prejudice is indeed a primary factor in the opposition. "D.C. statehood would put two Black senators on Capitol Hill. You can believe it comes down to a question of the complexion of the District of Columbia," says Ron Walters, a Howard University professor who has studied the

statehood fight for more than a decade.

That's why Jesse Jackson, who joined a growing cast of statehood supporters by launching a nationwide lobbying effort in January, has called statehood "the highest civil rights issue in the country today. It transcends any other agenda in town," says Jackson who is running for one of the two non-voting "shadow senator" seats created by the District City Council early this year to lobby for district statehood.

But in the light of the powerful opposition, even supporters concede that turning the district into the state of "New Columbia" isn't going to be easy. "No one doubts this will be a difficult uphill struggle," Sen. Kennedy says, "but we are committed to the effort . . ."

It will take more than commitment, however. Passing the district statehood bill requires the approval of both houses of Congress and the president's signature. Without significant pressure, supporters say, the Senate's 45 Republican senators are not going to cast a vote that will almost certainly add two Democratic senators, much less two Black Democratic senators, particularly when Democrats already hold a 10-seat majority. "I anticipate there will be two major roadblocks in our fight for statehood—Republicans in the Congress and President George Bush," says Democratic National Committee Chairman Ron Brown.

A concrete measure of Brown's feeling can be found in a Senate vote last

year—97 to 2—not to approve financing to create a district statehood commission to merely *study the possibilities*. "I continue to be amazed—and appalled—by the hypocrisy of members of Congress opposing this measure," says Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. "They honor democracy everywhere else—why not in the capital of their own country?"

Washington Mayor Marion Barry's headline-making drug trial has not helped the struggle, say observers. In fact, many opponents are now pointing to it as "proof" that Washington should not be free to govern itself, an argument proponents say that is ludicrous. "Two of the last four governors of Illinois have ended up in federal prison, but I have not heard anyone suggest that citizens of Illinois ought to be denied representation," says Illinois Sen. Paul Simon.

But putting all those arguments aside, proponents insist that statehood for Washington comes down to something far more basic: Equity. Fairness. *Justice*. And, Josephine Butler, chairwoman of the District Statehood Commission and "the mother of the movement," says she's got the facts to prove it. Consider, says Butler, the following:

- District residents are the only tax-paying Americans who are denied representation in Congress.
- D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy represents more people who pay taxes than any other member of the House of Representatives, yet he is the only one who cannot vote.
- During the Vietnam War the district had more casualties than 10 states and more killed per capita than 47 states.
- District residents pay more taxes per capita than residents in any other state except Alaska.
- The district contributes more to social security than six other states.
- District residents pay over a billion dollars annually in taxes to the federal treasury, more total federal taxes than nine states pay.

Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Ron Dellums sums up the statistics this way: "We pay federal taxes but we have virtually no control over the taxes that are withheld from us. We serve in the military, but we can't choose representatives who can vote for us in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. We are required to serve on juries, but we are forced to appear before judges who have been appointed without our advice, much less our consent. We are

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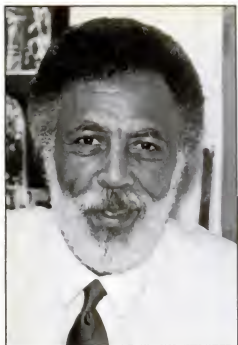
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on the road***



Black Washingtonians. He, along with a host of political leaders, insists that the fight for statehood is a fight for all Black Americans. "As African-Americans we have a moral obligation to ourselves, to our children and our children's children, to make an unyielding commitment to our present and their future through an unceasing effort to achieve statehood," says Rep. Ron Dellums.

Although only Washingtonians will win a new voting right, a predominantly Black "New Columbia" will in all likelihood put two Black senators and a Black voting representative on Capitol Hill, and Black America will gain a much-needed, long-overdue voice in the most exclusive political fraternity in the world. "Two African-American senators would have a natural and a constituency-based interest in looking out for the primary needs of African-Americans, in developing good relations between the U.S. and Africa, and in the development of Africa and the Third World generally," says Jesse Jackson. "That kind of interest and concern would not only benefit African-Americans, but the country and the world as well."



Major players in the district drama include Rep. Ronald Dellums (above, left), chairman of the District of Columbia Committee of the U.S. House, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who is running for "shadow" senator from the district.

D.C. STATEHOOD *Continued* the last colonists in the last colony . . .

The race issue aside, many believe any one of these facts would have been sufficient to win statehood for the district a long time ago. "Of course race is a factor," says D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy, the nine-term Democrat who began the struggle for statehood more than a quarter century ago. "But we've never let that stop us."

By "us" Fauntroy doesn't just mean

"Of course race is a factor. But we've never let that stop us."

Walter Fauntroy

DNC Chairman Brown agrees. "The political reality of D.C. statehood should not be underestimated," says Brown. "The new votes cast in Congress will support a fair minimum wage, a national health plan, equal protection and rights for minorities and women, affordable housing programs, a tough crime bill, and training and investment programs for our workers and children."

"D.C. statehood would mean that the one jurisdiction that has come to be symbolic of the economic and political empowerment of African-Americans would be represented in the U.S. Senate by two African-Americans," agrees Fauntroy.

Ultimately, says Black Caucus Chairman Dellums, that is why district statehood is "a moral mandate for African-Americans. This is our goal—this must be our struggle—and we shall overcome!"

—Laura B. Randolph

Other important persons in the push for D.C. statehood include Josephine Butler (above), chair of the D.C. Statehood Commission and "the mother of the statehood movement," D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy (below, left) and D.C. City Council Chairman David Clarke.



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INTRODUCING: **ROSIE JONES**

Miss Black America



Rosie Jones of Bridgeport, Conn. (above), is the new Miss Black America. The 26-year-old business management student says confidence and determination helped her win. All smiles after she won the pageant (right), Jones is congratulated by last year's winner, Paula Gwynn, as other contestants applaud.

Confidence, ability and faith in God help Connecticut student win pageant

ROSIE Jones has always been a confident, determined young woman, and winning the Miss Black America Pageant didn't surprise her. The 26-year-old management major at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut says it was confidence and faith in God that got her through the pageant's challenging tryouts and rigorous routines.

"During almost every break, I would run to a bathroom, a quiet hallway or stairway for a silent prayer. It seems I prayed every second they gave us a break," recalls Jones, a systems program planner for Textron Lycoming, a company that makes gas turbine engines. "After all of that rehearsing and competing, I became very tired, but I always found time to pray and I always found confidence through prayer."

And confidence is what the audience and judges saw when the aspiring actress and model sang "Inspiration," a song recorded by Miki Howard, during the talent competition. Jones' quick wit and exciting personality were demonstrated during the projection (question-response) competition when she answered a randomly selected question by creating an im-



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MISS BLACK AMERICA *Continued*
promptly rap song to describe herself.

Philadelphia promoter J. Morris Anderson says he founded the Miss Black America Pageant 22 years ago to give Black women the opportunity to showcase their talents. "We like to put Black women on a pedestal," he says. "We want everyone to know they are beautiful both on the inside and outside."

"Just because Black women have won in the White pageants lately doesn't mean there is no longer a need for Black pageants."

*—J. Morris Anderson
pageant founder*

In an age when Black women are winning predominantly White beauty pageants, some question the importance of today's Black pageants. But Anderson says the Miss Black America Pageant is as relevant today as it was in 1968. "The Miss Black America pageant lets everyone know that our women are beautiful, too," he says. "Just because Black women have won in the White pageants lately doesn't mean there is no longer a need for Black pageants."

As winner of the pageant, Jones received a cash prize, a vacation trip to Hawaii, a new wardrobe and other gifts donated by pageant sponsors. She will also make numerous public ap-

In her spare time, Jones works to maintain her petite, trim frame. After being crowned Miss Black America, Textron Looming employee in Bridgeport, Conn., (below) held a celebration for Jones. Supervisors W. H. Eaton (l.) and Lou Gay (r.) helped kick-off the festivities.



pearances around the country. The five-foot-three beauty hopes her crown will enable her to follow in the footsteps of other Miss Black America Pageant winners, who have pursued singing, acting and modeling careers.

Women interested in entering the pageant must be high school graduates between the ages 17 and 29. They must be able to answer questions spontaneously and perform two-minute talent routines. Some women enter the Miss Black America Pageant through local competitions and others are selected by pageant officials as "contestants at large." Contestants compete in preliminary competitions before becoming finalists.

"I would say that women who are good leaders, carry themselves well, can talk well and influence people would make good candidates for the Miss Black America Pageant," says Jones. "After all, we are role models and people look up to us."

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Celebrating The



Traveling festival of kinship emphasizes tradition, Black love

By Roxanne Brown

In the Black community, there is a strong tradition of movement. In the aftermath of slavery, Blacks came together to heal and build. In the '60s, the movement was toward equality. In these trying times, there is a quiet movement afoot to rekindle the spirit and power of the extended Black family, and there are few who work more diligently toward that end than Dorothy I. Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and founder of the Black Family Reunion Celebration.



In Philadelphia, Dorothy I. Height (above, c.), president of the National Council of Negro Women and founder of the Black Family Reunion Celebration, presents an award to the Williams family for bringing the most members (16) to the first of the extended-family festivals of 1990. At top, Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode proclaims "Black Family Reunion Day."

Black Family

In 1986, after viewing a nationally televised special that bleakly focused on Black teenage pregnancy, crime and despair, Height was disturbed. "We are not a problem people; we are a people with problems," she says. "We have historic strengths; we have survived *because of family*." She decided to counter the negative depiction of Black families. Backed by the NCNW, a Washington-based organization of 32 national Black women's groups, Height launched the first Black Family Reunion, a one-day festival of fun and forums that attracted 200,000 people to the Mall in Washington, D.C.

The rest is nothing short of a movement. In its fifth year, the reunion has become a national celebration of Black kinship that in 1990 traveled to six cities and was attended by more than a million people. At the kick-off reunion in Philadelphia, notables such as Mayor W. Wilson Goode, Dick Gregory, Betty Shabazz, actress Esther

Rolle and singers Miles Jaye, James Ingram (national honorary chairperson for the Black Family Reunion Celebration), Stacy Lattisaw and Melba Moore (membership chairperson of the national Council of Negro Women) participated.

The Black Family Reunion Celebration, an outdoor extravaganza, looks a lot like a well-organized summer festival or county fair. Bright canopies and tents dot the landscape, children and helium-filled balloons bob across the green, and the aroma of grilled meat is intermingled with that of ethnic foods supplied by an assortment of vendors. But there is more of a purpose than mere family fun here.

"One of the things we really wanted to do is to create some new community energy about caring about one another, looking out for one another and for dealing with our problems," says Dr. Height. In order to accomplish this, the NCNW brings some of the



Among the estimated 200,000 persons who attended the Philadelphia celebration were people of all ages (above) and from across the country (below), some from as far as Arkansas.





Activist Dick Gregory and Dr. Betty Shabazz were two of the reunion participants who spoke about the importance of family. Many participants (right) were members of the younger generation.

BLACK FAMILY *Continued*

most affluent members of the community together with some of the most disadvantaged. The mayor, politicians, professional leaders and celebrated artists are all accessible to the common citizen. "In the neighborhoods where many of us grew up, we had the teacher, the lawyer, the domestic worker and the unemployed all in one neighborhood," reminds Height.

Various pavilions serve as information and discussion stations. Education, spirituality, fitness and health, self-help and the work ethic are the common themes. There are pavilions where young people can have African masks painted on their faces, dance to the latest rap stars' releases, and pick



The huge crowd (left) sampled a variety of ethnic foods supplied by the 200 vendors, and they were thrilled by the performances of such entertainers as Jean Carne (above) and Melba Moore (top).





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The outdoor extravaganza took on a festival-like atmosphere with the brightly colored canopies, a variety of food, music, helium-filled balloons and playful children. Below, singer Stacy Lattisaw, after giving a motivational speech to young adults, signs an autograph for a young fan. At bottom, those who attended the reunion had the opportunity to check their blood pressure and cholesterol level. They were also given information about preventive health measures and proper nutrition.

BLACK FAMILY *Continued* up tips on how to apply for college scholarships.

Once tagged "the godmother of the women's movement," Height has been a nationally recognized champion of civil and women's rights for 50 years. She would have had little problem securing the kind of support that has made the Black Family Reunion Celebration so successful. However, she believes support comes because the Black community is realizing that the reunion is a vehicle through which we can begin to return to our much-needed traditional values. Corporate and community sponsorship has increased each year, and the list of volunteers who devote long hours to preparing for each city's reunion has swelled.

At 78, Height is a tall, soft-featured, powerhouse of a woman who speaks proudly, yet modestly, of people who have told her how much the Black Family Reunion Celebration has inspired them. She believes the open-air, free-moving structure of the family reunions creates a climate that is not unlike "our old African tradition of reasoning and sharing" with one another.

"One of the things I hoped the Black Family Reunion Celebration would do is to stimulate the sense that we're an African-American people, and that we are not alone, no matter how isolated," says Height. "That sets a kinship when you feel that you belong—it gives a basis for self-esteem—when you know that you are a part of something bigger than yourself."



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GA

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Memphis

HESS

Chattanooga

TEXAS

BEAUMONT
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HECHT'S
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ROGER'S

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ARIZONA

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CALIFORNIA

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POLEY'S
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IOWA

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MARYLAND

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BELK

Corinth

NEBRASKA

YOUNKERS
Omaha

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LETTERS

Continued

people to listen to the songs even more. All the commotion tends to grab the public's attention, and they want to see for themselves what all the controversy is about.

Personally, I feel rap is simply the facts of life put into music. The younger people of today listen and learn from rap. If the critics would sit down and listen for themselves, they'd know what the songs are teaching: African-American history, finishing school, staying away from drugs and staying crime-free. These are things our young must learn, and what better way to learn them than through rap?

EBONY, thanks for the article and keep up the good work. Rappers, keep on rapping!

JUANITA LEWIS

Montgomery, Ala.

This letter is in response to "The Real Story Behind The Rap Revolution" (June 1990). The article was very stimulating as well as informative. I am not a rap fanatic. However, your article clarified a few issues I didn't understand about rap.

I am a music major at predominantly African-American Alabama State University in Montgomery. I believe firmly that there is too much profanity used in rap lyrics. People, musical or non-musical, should be able to express themselves without the use of obscenities. Too, I believe firmly that if people who have or will have an impact on our young people, should portray a positive image or no image at all. I admire Kool Moe Dee, Young MC and Kurtis Blow for encouraging young people to stay in school. They are the only rappers, according to my knowledge, who have college degrees. Finally, I must commend The Fat Boys for encouraging young people to abstain from the use of drugs. Not all rap is bad, but if we don't raise our moral standards, as well as elevate our minds through education, we will not only lose the younger generation, but our freedom as well!

I thank you, EBONY, for a provocative article.

ALTON MITCHELL

Montgomery, Ala.

MANDELA LOVE LETTERS

I am writing you, EBONY, to thank you for the exclusive article, "The Love Letters Of Nelson Mandela" (June 1990), one of the greatest love stories of all times. Other couples would have given up on their relationship because of being separated for more than a quarter of a century. But Nelson and Winnie were strong in their love for one another and able to surmount the barrier of Nelson's incarceration.

Keep sending us inspirational articles like this one.

SONYA M. HILL

Prichard, Ala.

100 MOST INFLUENTIAL

Last year I wrote a response to your article featuring "The 100 Most Influential Black Americans" with which I was not pleased. This year I am a lot more pleased with your choice of including Minister Louis Farrakhan. I don't say the most because of my personal feelings for him but because he has the power to turn the lives around of those who most people think are hopeless. He has had the biggest influence in my life. I am educated. I was raised in a two-parent home and have always had the necessities of life and most of my wants. I was raised in the Baptist church, but none of those things made any sense until I met this God-sent man. EBONY, I am

proud of you for taking a stand. Although I realize he may upset the powers of this world, we can never expect to be a free people if someone doesn't get upset. No prophet, messenger or warrior of God has ever pleased the power of their name.

I salute you for thinking of the masses who love and support your magazine.

SISTER TARA X

Brooklyn, N.Y.

KAPPA ALPHA PSI

I was extremely proud to read the article on Kappa Alpha Psi (May 1990). I became a brother on April 23, 1989, at Rutgers University. Being a member of Kappa has enhanced my life because Kappa does not only stress group achievement but individual achievement as well.

I believe that as a student in a predominantly White institution, Black fraternities and sororities are essential instruments for the development of African-American students. They serve as a foundation and motivational force and instill determination and persistence in their members. We Kappas are not just resting on a foundation that was already built; we are enhancing, refining and rebuilding that already solid foundation.

It is timely that you are giving recognition to fraternities and sororities which have such a profound effect on African-Americans. Thank you, EBONY, for such an informative article on Kappa Alpha Psi and other Greek-letter organizations.

MARK A. KEY

New Brunswick, N.J.

ISIAH THOMAS' MOTHER

I am touched by the article, "Isiah Thomas' Mother Tells How To Save Children From Gangs" (May 1990) because she resembles me in many ways. I am a married mother of two children (son 8 years, daughter 5 years of age). Education is very important and I always tell my children that with education you "get somewhere in life." I would like every mother to do the same. Stay close to the children, understand their problems, teach them everything—the bad, the good, pros and cons. Let them be free to you. Do whatever it takes to raise them properly. Let them accept the realities of life, what you give them as a parent/mother. Let them understand the importance of education. I always tell my two kids that if they want good things, they must read hard.

I know it is a big struggle to bring up a family but true love and care as a mother to the family is everything. I have been reading EBONY issues from my lovely husband who is working in Swaziland. This is my sixth copy, but this one has really touched me as a mother. I will soon join my husband in Swaziland.

I love EBONY. Keep up the good work.

MRS. MERCY SARAI

Tanzania, East Africa

TRIBUTE TO BLACK MOTHERS

I was extremely happy when I read your article, "A Tribute To Black Mothers" (May 1990). The part that touched my heart most was the tribute to Janet Hall and her daughter, Joy, the first Black National Poster Child For Easter Seals. It was so nice to see that Janet Hall worked so hard and long with her daughter. She didn't give up, despite the fact that the doctors said Joy would never walk again.

I know it wasn't easy. I have a two-year-old girl and, like Ms. Hall, I'm struggling to do everything possible to give my little girl all of the help and assistance I can.

LETTERS

Continued

I would like to thank EBONY for its concern for mothers, because we do so much for our families and it is hardly ever recognized. I would also like to add, for parents with children with special needs, please don't give up on your children. Work with them everyday; get involved with support groups; stay in close contact with their doctors, and have a lot of patience. And, last, pray to God each and every day, and He will guide you and give you the strength and courage to carry on.

And, EBONY, please continue printing articles like these because we need this kind of encouragement.

VERONICA DAIGLE WILSON

Donaldsonville, La.

SINBAD

I am ashamed to admit that I literally laughed out loud when I read on April's cover, "Sinbad: Let's Hear It For Black Men." But I was truly moved by what Sinbad had to say . . . moved enough to write of my own enlightening experience.

Being an 18-year-old Black female I had little hope for meeting an "intelligent" young Black male—intelligent enough to be himself, and intelligent enough to let me be me. But not too long ago, it happened, and ours was a friendship that transgressed into love. Yet, I do more than "love" him; I trust, encourage and support this young man (he's 20) when the world's trial brings him to his knees. I listen to him when his friends and family tire of his tales of frustration. I accept him for who and what he is at the moment, not for who or what he feels he needs to be. Needless

to say, I hope with all my heart and soul that I have a future with this special brother, but if that's not meant to be then I have enough renewed faith and trust in the Black man to start over. Thank you, Sinbad, and thank you, EBONY. I wish you continued success.

LORRIE IRBY

Garland, Texas

DR. LOUIS SULLIVAN

In your July 1990 issue, I noted with interest a letter to the editor in response to an article on Dr. Louis Sullivan (Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services) in your March 1990 issue. Among other things, the writer described the Morehouse School of Medicine as a "brainchild" of mine rather than of Dr. Sullivan. I was similarly given credit for the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science medical school program.

Let me confess that I am flattered, after serving as president of Meharry Medical College for eight years, that someone remembers my tenure at the Morehouse School of Medicine (1979-1982) and the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (1972-1979). I value very highly my role and experience at both institutions, but I cannot claim credit for either as my "brainchild." Dr. Sullivan deserves all the credit and appreciation we can give him for his role in developing and implementing the Morehouse School of Medicine and for his very dynamic current role as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

DAVID SATCHER, M.D., PH.D.
President
Meharry Medical College

Nashville, Tenn.

FULL-FIGURED WOMEN

The article, "Full-Figured Women Fight Back" (March 1990), confirmed what I have always known for years. If you are beautiful on the inside, the outside will shine just as well. I've never had any problems as far as getting dates. Whenever I go out, I manage to have an excellent time. I can also be the life of the party. When there is dancing going on, I am in the middle trying to learn, while some of the slim and trimmers are sitting down bored to death.

If you can accept yourself the way you are with a good attitude, the world will accept you according to how you feel about yourself. Sometimes I forget that I am full-figured because of the amount of fun I am having. Because I can make a statement just by walking into a room, I get compliments all the time and am proud to be a BBW (Big Beautiful Woman).

GERI CLARK

Flint, Mich.

Enough excuses! I sympathize with the female letter writers to your magazine, but those who decide to lose weight can; it is not impossible. I am, however, disappointed in your magazine for painting a bright picture for fat people ("Full-Figured Women Fight Back"). Black women, according to health reports, are the most overweight of all races. Many are not psychologically prepared to give up the sweets, the fat meat, the midnight snacks, and many never exercise.

Doctors are emphasizing the need to lose weight with exercise. Health insurance companies offer lower premiums to people who are within weight standards. The best motivator for losing weight is your family or friends. Plump women need to avoid the temptations to eat.

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ROB JOHNSTON

College Park, Ga.

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FROM THE **EBONY** FILES



In 1945, a youthful Jackie Robinson shakes hands with his mentor, Brooklyn Dodgers President Branch Rickey, after signing up with the Dodgers, thus becoming the first Black athlete to crash professional baseball's color barrier. Prior to actually joining the major league team in April of 1947, Robinson was sent for seasoning to the Dodgers' leading farm club, the Montreal Royals in the International League.

MELLOW

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